

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIV, Issue No. 170

FRIDAY JUNE 18, 2004

www.saipantribune.com 50¢

Tibbets: I'm delighted to be back

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

TINIAN—Paul Tibbets finally accomplished one of the many things he has been wanting to do: spend time with a small group of people in a faraway part of the Pacific, who knew a past too well, and let them see that he is a normal person, with eyes that see and recognize and a heart and soul that feel, respond, and understand.

Tibbets, the man who piloted the plane that dropped death on Hiroshima in 1945, indicated that he is not the devil reincarnate as some people may have thought of him.

"I'm delighted to be back here!" said the physically frail but highly spirited 89-year-old to hundreds of guests and residents Wednesday afternoon in a ceremony held at the site where his atomic bomb-carrying plane, Enola Gay, took off for Hiroshima at dawn on Aug. 6, 1945.

He could have been some place else but he chose to be in the Marianas at this time because "the people that live here have heard my name and heard something about me... I don't want

See **TIBBETS** on Page 12



LIBERTY DONES

YOUNG ARTISTS

CNMI's young artists pose with their parents and adviser Katharyn Tuten-Pucket, right standing, while holding their illustrated greeting cards during a media presentation at Hamilton's Bar and Restaurant Thursday afternoon. Their artworks will soon be featured in a book of memories about the World War II Battles of Saipan and Tinian called *We Drank our Tears*. From left seated, Donovan Igitol Brennan, Rosie Quitugua Villagomez, Ashley Raine Northen, and Hermes Abelinda Diaz.

'DPS needs \$32M for FY 2005'

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER

To ensure his department's accreditation, Public Safety commissioner Edward Camacho said yesterday that an increase in funding for the department would be necessary in the next fiscal year.



Camacho

Camacho said the department needs between \$31 million and \$32 million for fiscal year 2005—a \$1 million to \$2 million increase from the department's \$30-million request for fiscal year 2004.

"The \$31-\$32 million would be used for training and CALEA—Commission Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, as well as operational and equipment costs, salary, and providing educational programs for the

See **DPS** on Page 12

CTC clears way for Verizon deal

Governor's proposal for enforcement provision and \$10M bond junked

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Telecommunications Commission rejected early last night Gov. Juan N. Babauta's proposal for the establishment of special enforcement provisions and the imposition of a \$10-million performance bond on Pacific Telecoms Inc. once it acquires control over Verizon's local operations from Micronesia Telecommunications Corp.

This development narrows down the dispute arising from the governor's intervention in the approval of the sale to two issues: the financial audit to be completed by Deloitte and Touche to determine PTI's financial capability and Verizon's monopoly of the CNMI's fiber optic cable.

In a meeting at the governor's conference room, CTC chair Norman Tenorio, commissioners Mike Fitzgerald and Josephine Mesta unanimously voted to reject Babauta's and CNMI

consumer counsel Brian Caldwell's joint proposal on the enforcement provisions and bond requirement, inching the Verizon transaction a step closer to possible approval by the CTC.

"It is close to impossible to impose a bond on PTI," the chairman said. "[The bond] is just an additional cost of doing business. And let's face it—this [cost] will be passed on to consumers."

Tenorio said more faith should be placed on the CTC in its task to oversee

See **CTC** on Page 12

CPA to order 5-percent salary hike in 2005

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is planning to implement a 5-percent across the board salary increase among ports authority employees except position holders—the first salary augmentation effort after seven years of freezing all salary increase order in 1996.

The plan is part of the proposed fiscal year 2005 budget, which has yet to be approved by the CPA Board of Directors when it meets during its next board meeting.

When asked for comments, CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas said he is only authorized to release preliminary information on

See **CPA** on Page 12

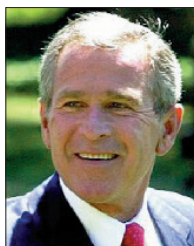
\$13M OK'd for CNMI projects

The Commonwealth will receive \$12.423 million in CIP funds—plus another \$1 million for water system improvements—under provisions of the fiscal year 2005 spending bill approved by the Appropriations Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives last week.

Gov. Juan N. Babauta, who was in Washington D.C. lobbying for the Commonwealth prior to the committee's action, said in a statement that he

is grateful for the strong support Congress and the Bush administration are giving to the CNMI.

"The President gave us an increase from \$11 million to \$12.423 in his FY06 budget, which was great," said Babauta. "And now, at



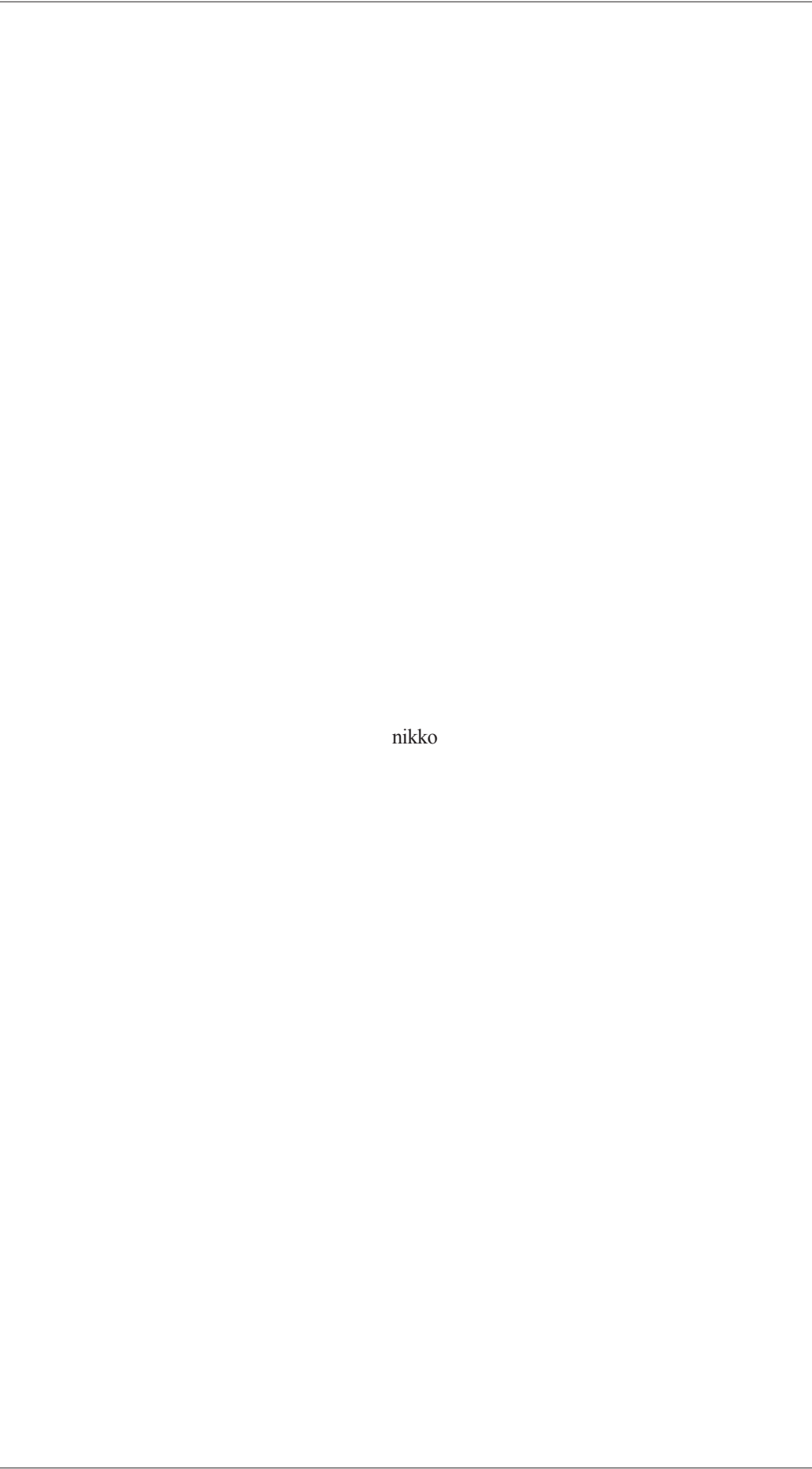
Bush

a time when the Appropriations Committee is cutting the overall budget for the Interior Department, the committee is adding another \$1 million to what the President proposed for the CNMI.

Babauta described the new funding as recognition of the continued need to improve services in the CNMI and is also recognition by Congress of the "efficiency and professionalism" of the CNMI Water Task Force led

See **\$13M** on Page 12

Local



nikko



diabetes
+green

Reyes wants four deportees exonerated

By **EDITH G. ALEJANDRO**
REPORTER

Sen. Pete Reyes urged fellow senators yesterday to meet with Philippine Bureau of Immigration and Deportation officials for a full-scale probe on the alleged extortion activities by some immigration officials against four Saipan residents last March.

Reyes also urged that the four individuals—David Cepeda, Jesus Lizama, Eugene Borja, and Brian Reyes—be exonerated from all charges lodged against them, including illegal recruitment and promoting prostitution.

In a Senate session held yesterday morning, Reyes said it is only fitting to meet with BID Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr., who earlier ordered BID officials implicated in the case to take a leave of absence during the investigation process.

“I would like to thank all my colleagues who have helped me. Atty. Fernandez had formed a task force to investigate the incident and all the accused are on leave pending the completion of this investigation. I believe that this problem can be resolved in an efficient manner,” said the senator.

Reyes added that the committee should consistently look into the case to ensure that the

investigation is completed.

Reyes said a Senate meeting with the BID task force would be in the best interest of the CNMI, particularly since the government is sending medical referral patients to Manila for treatment.

The 14th CNMI Senate had ordered a full-scale probe into the allegations that immigration officials in Manila extorted money from four Saipan residents who were being detained for alleged illegal recruitment and promotion of prostitution.

Senate President Joaquin G. Adriano had directed the Committee on Foreign Relations chaired by Sen. Henry San Nicolas to look into the incident to determine what actions can be taken against the Philippine immigration officials implicated in the case.

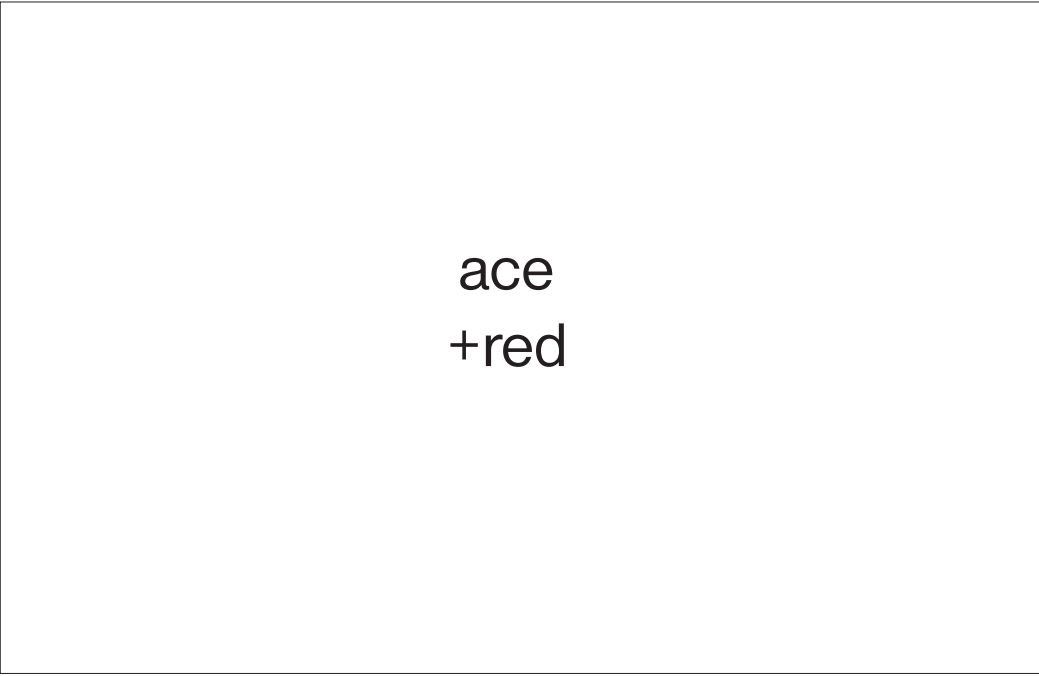
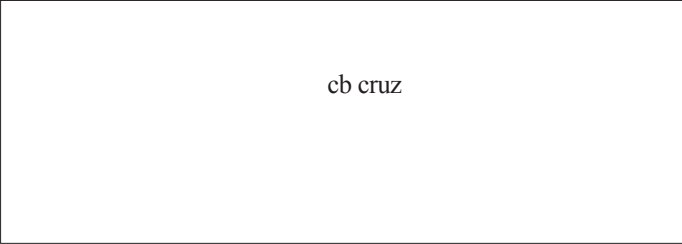
Reyes earlier named Philippine immigration division attorney Eleuterio Balina, Fe Valois-Bazuela, and the warden and assistant warden of the immigration detention facility as recipients of more than Php820,000 (\$16,400) from

the four Saipan residents. The four reportedly spent P1.4 million (\$28,000) in all, including initial payments made for the dropping of the illegal recruitment charges.

BID’s Fernandez had assured that there would be no white-wash in the investigation and appropriate punishment would be meted out to responsible individuals, should they be found guilty of the offense.

Fernandez also requested the BID resident Ombudsman to assist in the probe by conducting a parallel investigation into the case, a report published in the Manila Bulletin said.

Named to the probe body were lawyers Benjamin Kalaw, BID legal chief; Jose Tria, a member of the bureau’s prosecution task force; and Edmundo Magpantay, a DOJ prosecutor presently detailed with the bureau. The committee, chaired by BID administrative chief Felino Quirante Jr., was given 15 days to conduct the probe and submit its findings and recommendations to Fernandez.



pricecostco
+red/blue

COMMUNITY Briefs

Palau president to visit NMI

This is to notify all Palauans residing in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that Palau President Tommy E. Remengesau Jr. will be on the island and requests to have a dinner meeting with all Palauans on June 25, Friday, from 5pm to 11pm, at the Carolinian Utt.

For more information, contact the Palau Consulate at 235-6804 or cell phone 788-8320.

Garage sale on Saturday

Check out items in tomorrow's fundraising garage sale on Beach Road, across DEQ, beginning at 6am.

Are you a WWII Pacific veteran?

The Northern Marianas College film documentary crew is looking for WWII veterans with stories that should be told and remembered. If you are a veteran, or if you know one, please contact the NMC crew at 484-2876 and ask for Dominic.

ASVAB exams set this weekend

Individuals 17-34 years of age who want to join the U.S. Army are urged to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery examinations that will be held today and tomorrow at the U.S. Army Reserve Center in Puerto Rico.

The today's exam will be held at 4pm, while the tomorrow's exam will be at noon.

Interested individuals must bring a picture I.D. to process.

If there are any questions call collect (671) 477-7666 and ask for SFC Abadam (cell 671-687-3540) or Sgt Benavente (cell 671-687-3660).

WSR registration set

William S. Reyes Elementary School is announcing its Registration Information for school year 2004-2005. Registration procedures will be slightly different this school.

June 14-25 Incoming Students

- We will be giving your child the packet on April 30.
- You will fill them out and return the packet to your child's teacher.
- We will collect all registration forms.
- If on-going students do not register at this time, you will have to wait until June 14.
- Please register at this time so we will not have any delay.
- Inside the packet, we will have a checklist for all necessary documents.
- A check mark on the checklist indicates that you must turn-in the necessary document to complete your child's registration.
- If you are staying outside our zone, you are required to come in our office to sign the waiver form.

Checklist:

- Emergency Card
- Student Information (Yellow Card)

- FERPA form signed
 - Students Insurance (You can purchase at any insurance company)
 - Out of Zone Waiver application
 - Health Certificate
- For more information, call 664-3971/72.

Broadcast schedule for Into The Wood

The radio broadcast of Into The Woods Jr. by students under the direction of Friends of the Arts will be on KRNH 88.1 and 89.1 FM. It will air on Saipan Radio Theatre until June 22 at 7:30pm. It will also air on the Novel Hour, Tuesday, June 29, and Saturday, July 3 on the following times: Tuesday 8pm, Saturday 11am.

Attention to parents of GES 6th Grade graduates

On June 28, 2004 all 6th grade cumulative records will be sent to Hopwood Junior High School to prepare for the new school year. If your child will not be attending Hopwood, please come to the main office at GES to fill out a transfer-out form. This includes the parents of children who will be attending ChaCha Junior High School, private schools on Saipan, and/or any off-island school.

DEQ sets deadline for water report

The Division of Environmental Quality would like to announce to the owners and/or operators of all community public water systems that the due date for the annual Consumer Confidence Report for 2003 is on or before July 1, 2004.

All Community Public Water Systems are required to gather all 2003 analytical results and violations, if any, and produce a consumer confidence report, which will be disseminated to all consumers as well as provide a copy to DEQ.

DEQ also looks forward to reviewing and hopes to find all CCR's in exceptional order.

For additional information on the 2003 CCR, contact Tripler Dela Cruz of the DEQ Safe Drinking Water Branch at 664-8500/01.

Group offers free health screening

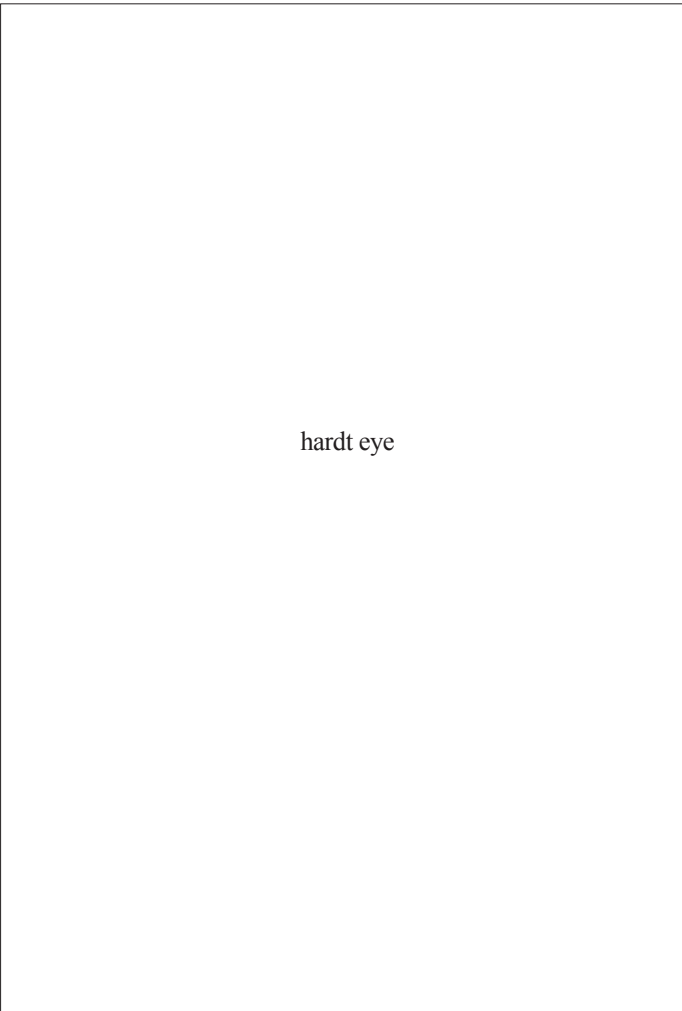
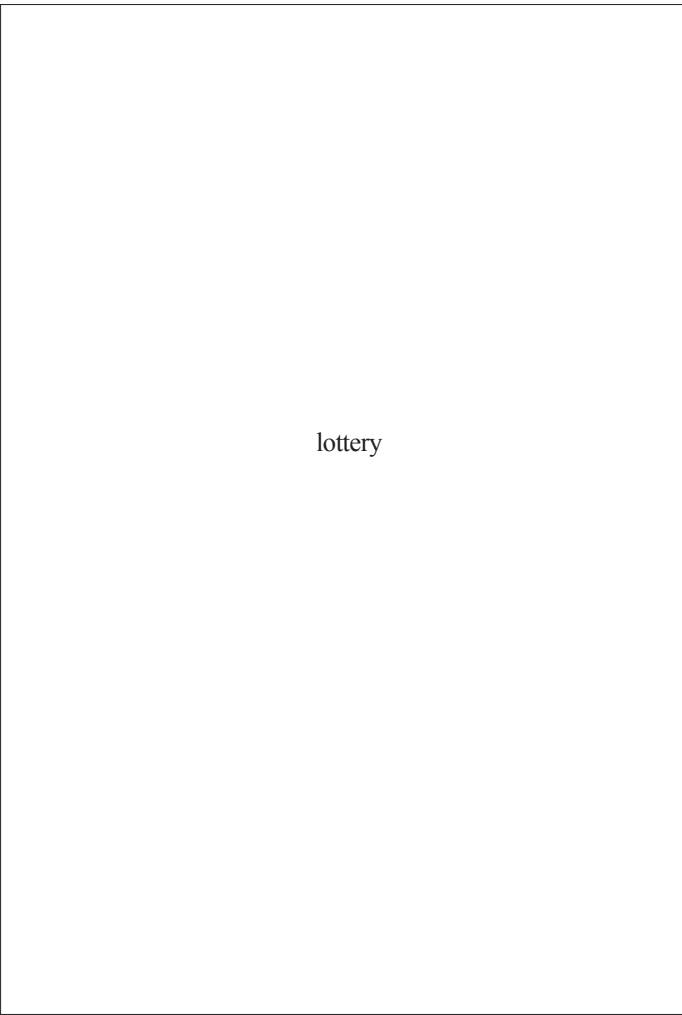
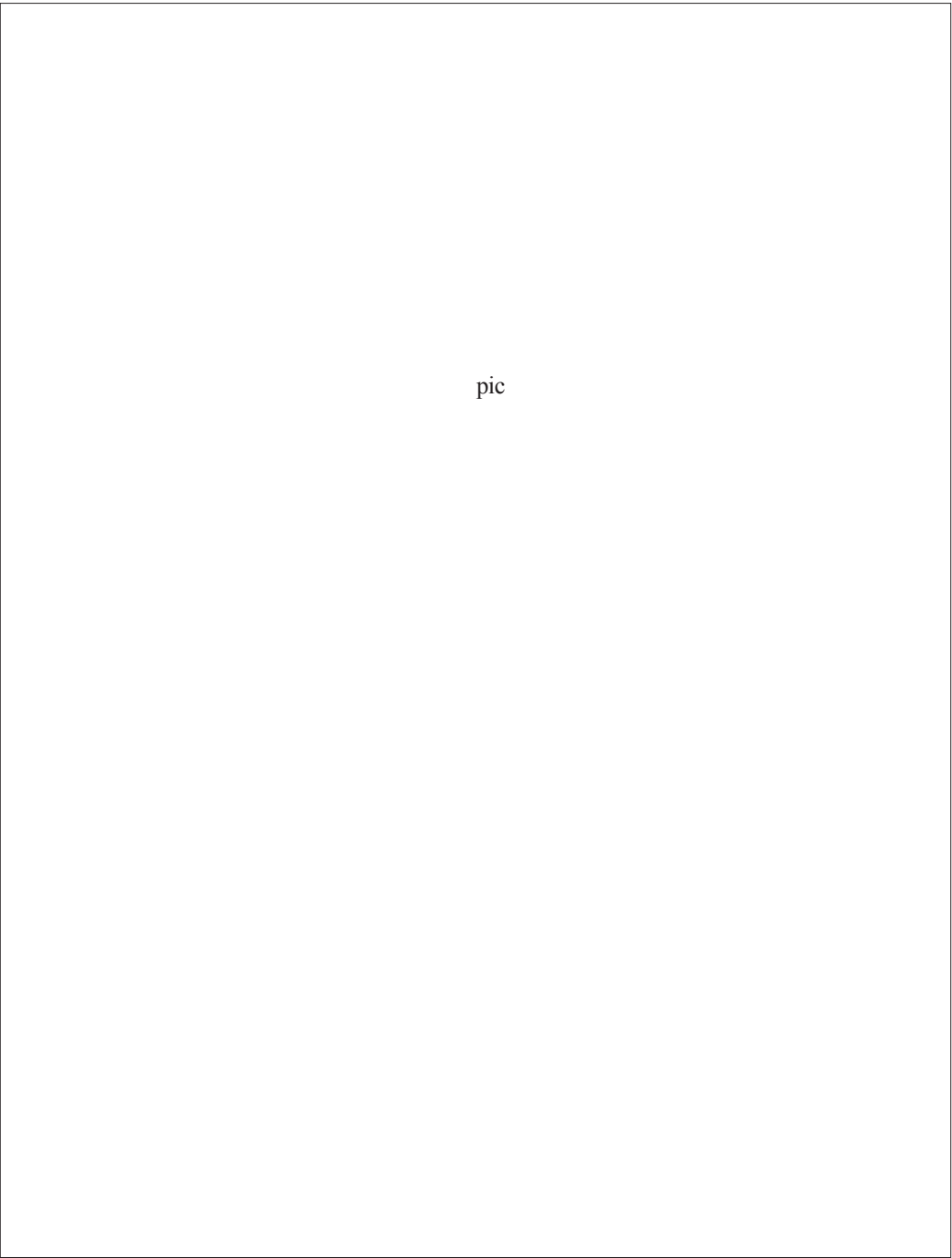
The United Filipino Organization and the Philippines' Overseas Workers Welfare Administration on Saipan disclosed launching a health-screening program as part of efforts to curb the rising incidence of diabetes among Filipinos in the CNMI.

UFO president Nel Atalig said the health-screening project would involve free glucose count and blood pressure tests.

Volunteers from the Commonwealth Health Center would perform the tests, she said.

Atalig said the event would be regularly conducted from 9am to 12 noon every last Sunday of the month.

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seastar

las vegas
+yellow

US Embassy, Tokyo, Dec. 7, 1941

There are thousands of stories related to personal experiences in World War II and while many are tragic in the extreme, others involve circumstances and events that are interesting from the point of view of simply being of human interest.

After the war many who had been in the United States military continued their government service and joined the State Department and other agencies of the United States Government. I met many of these veterans while serving as a foreign service officer in various American Embassies. These were men who were nearing retirement and their positions were being filled by younger employees such as myself.

One such person I shall always remember while serving with the State Department told me of an episode which occurred at the American Embassy in Tokyo in the early days of the war.

He recalled that the dependents of the Embassy staff were ordered by the State Department to leave Japan in April of that year as the political situation between the United States and Japan was deteriorating rapidly.

Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor and the declaration of war on December 8th while still in Tokyo he was visited by a Japanese officer who looked around the Embassy compound and saw several Japanese civil-

By **WILLIAM H. STEWART**
Military Historical Cartographer



ians who were employed as gardeners, cooks and maids. The Japanese officer ordered them to leave stating, "our countries are now at war and such luxuries will not be permitted among American Embassy employees", and he ordered the Japanese domestic employees to leave the Embassy compound and not to return. He then told the Americans that they could not leave the compound and that an exchange of diplomats



was being arranged. This trade later took place in West Africa where the Japanese diplomats who had been stationed in Washington (including Japanese negotiators Ambassador Admiral Kichisaburo Nomura and Saburo Kurusu) were exchanged for the American Embassy staff that had been assigned to Japan. This particular Japanese officer had a habit of dropping by the Embassy compound as he liked to practice speaking English. One day he brought an English language newspaper with the headline, "Guam Falls", and remarked that Singapore,

Hong Kong and Hawaii would be next and that Japanese forces would land troops on the United States' west coast. My friend, Bill, recalled his reply, "Colonel you will never take Singapore as the city is protected by a large British garrison as well as huge naval coastal batteries, it will never fall." With that exchange the Japanese officer abruptly left. Several days later he returned and again held up an English language newspaper in which the headline read, "Singapore Falls." "What do you think of that?" asked the officer. Being extremely depressed at the news, Bill replied, "So Singapore has fallen - well Colonel maybe you will take Hawaii - and maybe you will land troops on the west coast of the United States - but I'll tell you here and now - I'll go down with my country." With that the Japanese officer stood up, slapped Bill on the back and said, "spoken like a man" and walked out the door. Several hours later the Japanese house boys and maids returned to work in the compound. Months later, while standing on the roof of his quarters in Tokyo, Bill heard aircraft flying overhead and looked up and thought he saw the red wing insignia of the Japanese Air Force, but all of a sudden bombs started to fall on the city -- it was April 18, 1942, and it was Jimmy Dolittle and his "Tokyo Raiders" flying over the city in their B-25 Mitchell Bombers from the aircraft carrier Hornet. The red "meatball" Bill thought he saw was actually the red center of the old Army Air Force wing insignia which was later changed to a plain white star.

There are many interesting stories that relate to the war, it was later learned that very little damage was done by the bombing attack. Fearing that the Army's top secret Norden Bomb Sight would fall into the hands of the Japanese, the attack was carried out with a 20 cent, sheet metal device that resembled a protractor with a sighting arm. I well remember hearing the news of the attack on the radio, in fact it was the first good news we had received since Pearl Harbor and it certainly boosted the morale of the American people in those dark days of 1942.



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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIV, Issue No. 163

Published daily at 2/F Century Insurance Building,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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Pacific Islands News Association

Letters to the Editor

Saipan Tribune welcomes contributions. All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name, address and, if possible, fax or telephone number. Letters are edited for space, clarity and fairness.

Same tired, old speeches

For nearly three decades now, we've heard tired speeches about (addressing) water shortages here. We're far off the mark from resolution because we're stuck in the mud of address.

The speeches are as empty as the water pipes emplaced in Garapan, San Jose, Susupe, As Lito, As Perdido, San Vicente and Chalan Kanoa Villages.

Then came a new form of government solution: establishment of a water task force to address water problems island-wide. CUC pitched in by planning to retain a consultant to study more water problems we already know. It's a case of the right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing.

The basic premise is: islands throughout the Pacific have small water lenses or aquifers. Island communities suffer from the lack of water in prolonged drought season. It means far less water in aquifers to meet the growing demands of the community. But we've also employed Chamorro Logic by drilling more water wells around the same source only to pump brackish water during the dry season.

The obvious dilemma is the continuing expansion of this community. It needs more water to feed new residential developments, islandwide. The seeming answer is to proceed with desalination of salt water. Otherwise, we may have to revert to building more outside toilets to mitigate the lack of water.

Gentlemen, please spare us the same tired old intramural speeches that are as empty as the pipes in the villages, speeches that have been regurgitated for nearly 30 years.

John S. DelRosario Jr.
Koblerville

A response to Senator Reyes

Let me respond to Sen. Pete P. Reyes in the same venue in which he made his remarks (in the June 8 issue of this paper). Senator Reyes was unhappy that I did not consult with him prior to my voicing an opinion in my column, On My Mind (found on the web and in this paper's Sunday edition), about his reaction to the governor's veto of three of Senator Reyes' bills. The senator claimed that the vetoes were a personal reaction by the governor, and I disagreed.

Senator, I do not own a TV set. I get my information mainly from reading the two local papers. I often do call parties for information related to subjects I write about, and often obtain copies of, and read, related documents as well.

I did not do so in this case because, to the best of my recollection, in all the coverage given your unhappiness with the governor's vetoes, not once was any substantive argument included about the issues regarding Senate Bill 14-11, Senate Draft 1, which concerned DNA testing in paternity suits. There was no clue that the governor's reasoning was in error, and that your objections did, indeed, have factual grounds.

I know you are articulate, and do not hesitate to voice your opinion. Since I found no explanation of your position in the papers I made the assumption that, therefore, there were no real grounds for the position you were taking on this bill.

The other two bills that were vetoed—one, proposing to abolish celebration of President's Day so as to observe Martin Luther King day, and the other proposing to restrict Marianas Visitors Authority's hiring of nonresident workers—are both more a matter of opinion than a matter of fact, and there did not seem a need for further clarification.

I realize that there is a risk in depending on what the newspapers report and what they don't, on what approach they take. But I simply don't have the resources to verify every piece of newspaper-provided data that I use.

On the bright side, at least now, with your detailed explanation of why SB 14-11 should not have been vetoed, we may all understand what the real issue is. Indeed, perhaps it will encourage legislators to override the veto of this bill. It's a pity the explanation wasn't provided sooner.

Senator, I meant no disrespect. Our relationship has been a respectful one, and I hope it continues that way.

Ruth L. Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

Why Reagan is a legend

If the Commonwealth had to pick a hero, Ronald Reagan would be a good choice. After all, it was President Reagan who conferred U.S. citizenship on the island folks, an act that has been followed by a gravy train of sweet moolah that puts the financial sucrose in the term Uncle Sugar.

Of course, if you go anywhere near the English-language media, they have soured the sweetness of Reagan's dignified stature by grinding in into mush with the millstones of Posthumous Saturation Coverage. Among all the romp in the pomp, though, I've gotten a lot of email questions from foreign readers, many of them workers or managers on Saipan, who are trying to gauge the American psyche on this matter. Namely, this: "What's the deal with Ronald Reagan? Why was he so popular?"

Well, that's a fair question. Let me see if I can cook up a fair answer.

You can't separate a man from his times, and Reagan secured the presidency in really bleak times for the United States. Not bleak as in crisis of Great Depression or WWII proportions, but bleak as in a vague and all encompassing despair, like a wet blanket had settled over the nation and was slowly smothering everyone's hopes. President Jimmy Carter just wasn't hitting the right buttons there in the Oval Office.

Inflation was roaring out of control, and I remember well those double-digit interest rates and the obscene, wealth-depleting costs of my parents' mortgage and car payments as they sweat the bills each month.

A gas crisis hit, and was countered with total incompetence.

And on the geopolitical stage, a handful of rag-tag Iranian yahoos holding U.S. hostages managed to geld Uncle Sam, while Carter looked like a deer frozen in headlights.

No disrespect intended to Mr. Carter, since he is a man of great intelligence and character. He just had lousy luck in Washington. And he had no knack for economics.

Still, lousy luck is, well, lousy, and economics is mighty unforgiving of messing up, and any way you looked at it back then, U.S.

Examining the local mom-and-pop phenomenon

Q •Hafa Adai! I look forward to reading your column everyday and one thing for sure, you are truly impartial and that I surely appreciate. I have a few concerns that I would like to share with you and hopefully will be able to see you address one or two in your column.

A good number of mom-and-pop stores are operating businesses in small spaces with very limited merchandise and obviously run and managed daily by family members or attendants who could barely communicate in English. It just makes me wonder; how and in what ways do such businesses contribute to the CNMI economy. Are they simply operating such businesses as a front just so they can continue residing in the CNMI? I am sure that their income verse their living expenses is a big negative. Or are they reporting their business gross income?

Certainly, I am pleased to hear of your great interest—like many others—in my Q & A column. My purpose for this column is to enhance public awareness on issues of common interest in the community. It's my goal is to build a strong enough pressure from a well-informed public to compel the policymakers to develop and follow a socio-economic development plan that charts a successful development path for the people of the CNMI.

Let me begin my answer to your question by highlighting the socio-economic significance of small businesses, the so-called "mom-and-pop enterprises." This type of small business is primarily operated by the owner and his/her family members. Small businesses employ almost 60 percent of America's workers, contribute 50 percent of sales and account for half of private sector output. According to published government data, small and family owned businesses represented 98 percent of all U.S. employers, generated the third-largest economy in the world and contributed 50 percent of the gross domestic product in year 2000. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy, small firms made up nearly 90 percent of all exporters and produced one-fifth of the known export value in 2001. For that matter no national political leader can afford to ignore policies aimed at addressing the issues concerning mom-and-pop enterprises. Thus, invariably every federal administration has declared policies to improve the economic security of small businesses, provide them help to meet challenges by improving access to capital, ease the tax burden, expand the opportunity of access to new markets, make technology and information work for small businesses and help them in implementing policies that value families. However, development of specific policies addressing issues of small businesses by our lo-

By **ED STEPHENS**

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policy—economic, military, whatever—was an utter disaster. Want to understand Reagan's popularity? You have to understand this first. It's a context thing.

And then Ronald Reagan appeared and he turned things around. The smothering blanket was lifted. The sun came out. Things got better. That's what happened. The details don't matter.

Meanwhile, consider that TV is the center of life in the USA, where the average American now watches 5.3 hours per day (yes, per DAY) of television. Reagan wasn't the first TV president, but he was the best. He was telegenic. He was poised. He had an obvious sense of humor. He was dignified, but not stuffy, not cocky, not glib, not pompous. He seemed bigger than the title of President, not the other way around.

He seemed bigger than life, really, which is why so many people were so shaken a few days ago when they found that he wasn't.

Personally, there were some Reagan policies that I did not mesh with. Not everyone in his administration was on my warm-and-fuzzy list. But, so what? He was still a great among greats. In fact, in contemplating the man's legacy, perhaps the best reflection on him is who his shrill and vocal enemies are. If screeching neurotics, child molesters, and welfare queens go apoplectic at the mention of his name...well....that puts points in Reagan's favor right there.

Ronald Reagan is an American legend, who was legendarily good to the people of the Commonwealth, too.

By **MOHAMMAD ASHRAF, PH.D.**

Ashraf is an International Resource Economist. He is solely responsible for the views expressed in this column and doesn't represent the views of Saipan Tribune. His email address is ashmdr@hotmail.com



cal government may yet be in its infancy.

Further, I will mention some specific steps taken under the Clinton administration where the Small Business Administration doubled its loan volume to small businesses in three years. With no drop in loans to other business owners, the number of guaranteed loans to women-owned businesses was quadrupled. The 1993 Economic Plan made 90 percent of small businesses eligible for tax relief, helping them to keep money needed for growth. Also, targeted tax preference for capital gains, reduced record keeping requirements, raised the small business expense limit for equipment by 75 percent and extended the Research and Experimentation Tax Credit, reduced the burden of regulatory enforcement, overhauled export controls, and made it easier for small firms to do business with the federal government during the same time.

Similar policies such as tax write-offs for small businesses recently enacted by the Minimum Wage Increase Act, regulatory relief and reduction in paperwork requirements, easier access to needed capital, provision of health care insurance and retirement savings plans for employers and employees are continuing under the current administration of President Bush.

Why are mom-and-pop or family businesses more appreciated by the community, compared with the bigger chain store businesses? The reasons include the effectiveness of family teams, positive customer perceptions of family ownership, willingness of family members to sacrifice for their enterprise, trust among family members, commitment to integrity and reputation, family support and more. Family businesses enable people to work hard for something more important than either opportunity or ego and that's family reputation.

Among the economic benefits of these businesses, studies show that the externally owned firms tend to purchase products from distant suppliers and channel profits to distant owners in other regions, thus generating smaller local multiplier effects than homegrown businesses. The addition of one new small firm results in an overall

See **EXAMINING** on Page 8

CTC

From Page 1

PTI’s operations, once its acquisition of the telecom company is consummated. He said PTI should be allowed to operate its affairs in a free enterprise setting.

Fitzgerald said that, while he recognizes the interest of the governor and the CNMI consumer counsel to protect the interest of the public, the imposition of a \$10-million performance bond is not the right way to ensure PTI’s compliance with an approved settlement agreement. He said there could be better ways that could be crafted to ensure such compliance.

PTI had opposed the proposal, describing it as anti-business. The company’s reaction to the CTC decision was not immediately available last night.

Babauta’s lawyer, Assistant Attorney General James Livingstone, and Caldwell welcomed the CTC’s decision, saying they would not contest it pursuant to the Final Negotiation Settlement Report released by CTC settlement officer Sean Frink.

“The decision on [the] enforcement

[provisions issue] doesn’t in any way limit the power of the consumer counsel under the Commonwealth Telecommunications Act,” Caldwell said.

Livingstone also supported the CTC’s clamor for funding, saying that its current financial problem might eventually affect the commission’s enforcement capability.

CTC executive director Adam Turner said the Legislature has not acted on proposed legislation addressing the commission’s funding problem.

“Included in the settlement was a finding that the CTC needs resources to enforce the settlement and agreement between the parties to support legislation addressing this,” Turner said. “In terms of enforcement, both parties [companies and intervenors] agree that the CTC needs these resources.”

“The other issue involving competitive use of the fiber optic cable was not agreed to in this settlement and we have treated it as a contested case. Our regulations clearly address and contemplate competitive issues such as this,” Turner also said.

He said that, while Verizon’s use of the fiber optic cable is clearly a monopoly, there are cases when natural

monopolies are allowed to operate without any special regulation, such as cable television. He stressed, however, that the commission has yet to arrive at a decision, saying that there are also numerous cases of monopolies being regulated.

The junked proposal for enforcement provisions provided for up to \$500,000 of penalty should PTI eventually violate the settlement agreement.

Under the proposal, anyone who believes that PTI is violating the settlement can provide the company a written notice of violation, which will give the company 30 days to remedy the situation. After 30 days, the complaining entity may then file with the CTC a complaint that attaches the written notice.

Once it takes over MTC’s Verizon operations, PTI has committed to end inter-island toll charges, protect local workers, increase local competition, guarantee certain technological offerings and no-rate increases for years.

The governor and consumer counsel had proposed the bond requirement to ensure that PTI has the financial capability to pay a fine and correct possible violations.

\$13M

From Page 1

by Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente and Secretary Juan Reyes’ Department of Public Works in using the money the federal government is giving the Commonwealth.

The Babauta administration made CIP spending a key part of its strategy to bring the sluggish CNMI economy back to life.

In the statement, the administration claims that since coming into office, it has pumped over \$67 million of capital improvement money into the economy, which it said is more than the CIP spending of any previous administration during the same time period.

President’s distribution

In approving the \$12.423 million

budget for CNMI infrastructure, the U.S. House committee agreed with the recommendation of President Bush on how the money should be used.

The president’s plan calls for spending with a focus on projects established by the CNMI in the 1999 Capital Improvements Plan.

Major projects expected in 2005 are:

- critical water distribution system improvements
- additional pipeline projects
- water conservation/leak detection and elimination
- optimizing of existing wells
- test drilling program
- surface water catchment at CMS/BMC Quarry (A&E)
- Rota sewer construction
- Puerto Rico dump closure

The President’s FY05 budget reflects a new competitive allocation

system of CIP funds among the U.S. insular areas. Those areas targeting CIP expenditures on projects that have clear economic goals and serve a significant portion of the population receive priority in the distribution of federal funds.

The insular areas will also be graded on their performance in spending funds in a timely fashion and keeping projects within budget. Good performance will be rewarded with additional grant funds each year; poor performance will lose funding.

The House Committee on Appropriation reported out its recommendations for FY05 funding on June 9. Next, the bill goes to the full House for approval. The Senate has not yet acted on its version of the FY06 spending plan for the Interior Department.

TIBBETS

From Page 1

them to think that I’m someone with a horn on my head and a tail at my back.”

Prior to his arrival in the Commonwealth, Tibbets told media in Hawaii that he was unsure as to how he would be welcomed in the Northern Marianas.

Fully aware that people are curious to hear from him, Tibbets, who traveled to Saipan and Tinian with two other colleagues, Enola Gay navigator Theodore Van Kirk and weaponeer Morris Jeffson, took his time Wednesday, mustering all his strength to stand for about 30 minutes, before the crowd to tell them what happened on that unforgettable day in August 1945.

Tibbets said he has been briefed about the plan, popularly called the Manhattan Project, in reference to Tinian having a shape like Manhattan in New York, but “lots of seriousness of that didn’t really come home.”

“I had to get into the job and looked at what was going on and realized how serious it really was.”

He said the plane, loaded with the atomic bomb called Little Boy, left Tinian North Field past 2am, and the goal was to drop it on Hiroshima at 9:15am.

He said the plane did not depart Tinian until he got a final word from President Harry S. Truman, who at that time was having a meeting with Soviet Union president Joseph Stalin.

He said that the secret operation was actually covered by videos and pictorials by the U.S. military.

He recalled that at the dead of the night, he saw klieg lights all over the Tinian airport, trying to film his team’s every move until it accomplishes its mission. “The general wanted a pictorial of what happened,” he said.

Tibbets also praised Van Kirk for his exceptional navigational skills. “If you’re using computer now to think for you, he was my computer. Van Kirk gave me the time when to do things,” he said.

Tibbets said Enola Gay, which was actually named after his mother, was accompanied with two other planes, whose main objective was to document the trip.

He said everything “worked perfectly well”—good weather and all—unlike the second flight by another team, which dropped “Fat Man,” another atomic bomb, this time on Nagasaki.

“It was calm. Nothing happened that was not supposed to happen,” he said.

He said the two escort planes left shortly before he dropped the bomb.

Although his group was ready to

face the consequence of possibly not making it, he said that he knew what to do to be safe.

He said that Robert J. Oppenheimer, the physicist who made the bomb, told him that there was only one way to survive that mission: to turn either way 159 degree in no time—no more than 40 seconds.

However difficult, he managed to do it and before he knew it, he and his colleagues were back on Tinian.

He recalled seeing the whole sky in front of him lit up with the most amazing color of ocean blue, white, and purple.

“It’s the atmosphere reacting. It’s very colorful,” he said.

When they finally taxied on Tinian, he said they were instructed not to come out of plane immediately, fearing of the radiation’s impact on them.

After they were checked, he said they were only told to take a shower.

And he remembered Oppenheimer telling him, “Don’t worry about radiation.”

During his remarks, Tibbets repeatedly commended his team for the success of the entire mission. “I had the best people...I never had any disciplinary problems with any of my men,” he said.

Tibbets concluded that accomplishing the mission was “a reward.”

DPS

From Page 1

community,” he said. “With that, we also hope to [fill] the current vacancies.”

Camacho said the department is currently “not okay with funds” this year, with less than half—a little under \$14 million—of its request being granted.

“We’re still requesting for a little more. Every quarter, we have to pay vendors a lot, and it’s difficult to be within the budget when operation is demanding for more. However, it’s not so much to a point where we’re not able to perform our duties, but we are asking people to do twice as much.”

Camacho also disclosed that another issue that needs additional funds deals with operation vehicles within the department.

“Fifty percent of the fleet are not in the condition that they should be in,” he said. “Fifty percent is operational, but the other half is at risk or in need of repair. We have to identify money for that, but money is not really there.”

Further, Camacho said the push to compensate promoted personnel according to their new ranks is still ongoing.

“Even in the midst of austerity measure, the department is still striving and working with the administration and Legislature for appropriate compensation of officers,” he said. “We want to award them salaries that

come with the promotion. Officers accepted the promotions pending the availability of funds. They have the authority and responsibility, but the appropriate compensation is not there yet, and we are striving to get that rectified.”

Meantime, Camacho confirmed that the department has already submitted the documents requested of it by the House of Representatives. He said all documents were submitted last week.

“We turned a lot of stuff in, and according to folks from Capitol Hill, everything is turned in,” he said.

Camacho said information requested dealt with funds on personnel and equipment.

“They are trying to assist with funding. Everything is okay. They may be asking for other information that are still in need, and we will provide it when they request it. There’s no problem with that, especially when it is public information and is something to use for policy making. It will benefit us as well.”

House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial had formed an investigative committee that would force various agencies to appear and respond to the chamber’s inquiries following a reported failure by certain agencies to submit required documents. Among the agencies that have reportedly failed to submit documents were the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the DPS.

CPA

From Page 1

the budget proposal since has yet to be approved by the board.

Based on the proposal, civil service employees would be given a 5 percent salary increase in the next fiscal year; however, the CPA’s contribution rate to the employees’ dental and medical expenses remain at 25 percent.

The CPA’s expenses on salary and wages comprise only 55 percent of the overall operational and maintenance costs across all airports and seaports in the CNMI—a number that Salas said is small compared to other agencies.

Salas said the increase is very minimal, noting that all employees have sacrificed long enough and yet remain dedicated to CPA’s airport and seaport divisions.

Salas said the ports authority’s budget proposal is 2 percent higher than its FY2004 approved budget. The increase was in response to projected growth in its overall income for FY2005.

Among others, the authority projects that, by 2005, CPA would be able to meet its debt service obligations, in addition to 2-percent growth in its revenue due to the implementation of the Passenger Facility Charges, which would begin on Oct. 1, 2004.

The CPA is optimistic that the projected income of \$12.8 million for the airport division would materialize by 2005. This is about 2 percent more than the 2004 income projection.

Also, CPA reported that operational and maintenance costs would increase by 6 percent due to high cost of terminal building operations, and the increase in insurance premiums.

“We are asking for a \$12.8 million budget for the airport division and \$5.7 million for the seaport division. Operational costs are expected to increase also by 6 percent for the airport division or \$10.9 million, while seaport operation would increase by only .20

percent or cost would reach only \$1.9 million,” said Salas.

Salas said the 5-percent increase will be based on the evaluation of performance of all employees. “Salary increases were withheld for so many years and night deferential would still be deferred even if salary increase efforts are implemented. There would still be no overtime and CPA will still continue the reduced contribution rate of only 25 percent for medical and dental premiums,” Salas explained adding that CPA halted salary increases in 1996 while dental and medical premiums were reduced in 1998.

Also in 2005, CPA would continue restricted travel expenses unless relating to business and security measures; no new car purchases; and no projects funded wholly by CPA. At the same time, only Federal Aviation Administration-Airport Improvement Projects will be allowed.

The austerity measures are part of CPA’s efforts to meet all its obligations alongside with continued efforts to lure more airlines and increase load factor at the airport.

Salas said seaport operations would remain the same by 2005, noting that cargo activities would be at the same level as 2004. Both seaport and airport divisions are expected to meet the 1.25-percent bond indenture obligations.

“These are all...subject to CPA board approval. These are all part of efforts to keep CPA funded at all times to operate all three airports and seaports and provide necessary services to all. We would also provide cushion to meet our debt service and ensure that we will remain cost effective, efficient, and with all safety and security programs in place. We will also continue to be competitive in terms of enplanement rates,” Salas explained.

Salas said that a slow but sure rebound in tourist traffic in the CNMI is anticipated this fiscal year onward to FY2005.

DEQ raises red flag on Rota beach site

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on a beach site on Rota after samples collected from the location was found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria.

The agency said that samples it collected from District #2 Storm Drainage, Guata Beach showed high concentrations of enterococci bacteria that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

“Therefore, in order to adequately address public health concerns, DEQ has given the location a red flag and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of the [site] for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified,” said the agency in a statement.

DEQ analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 12 locations on Rota Island every week.

The agency has also analyzed water samples collected from Tinian’s recreational beaches and storm water drainages and none of the samples collected contained excessive concentration of fecal indicator bacteria nor did they exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The U. S. Army recently welcomed three young people from the CNMI into its ranks. From left to right, Derek M. Castro of DanDan , Abigail Evangelista of Tinian and Vincent A. Duenas of Koblerville.

3 NMI residents join US Army

Three residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands recently joined the U. S. Army, according to Sergeant First Class Christopher Cooper, commander of the U. S. Army recruiting Station on Guam.

Vincent A. Duenas of Koblerville, son of Joan Duenas, enlisted with the Military Occupational Skill of 19K- M1 Abrams Armor Crewman. He will be going to Fort Knox, Kentucky for his Initial Active Duty Training.

Derek M. Castro of DanDan, son of Daniel and Dorothy Castro, enlisted with the MOSI of 63B - Light Wheel Vehicle Mechanic. He will be going to Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, for his Initial Active Duty Training.

Abigail Evangelista of Tinian, daughter of Antonio and Evelyn Evangelista, enlisted with the MOS of 42A - Human Resources Specialist. She will take her initial training at Ft Jackson, South Carolina.

Young men and women interested in learning more about Army and Army Reserve opportunities should contact Staff Sergeant Abadam at the U. S. Army Recruiting Station in Guam at (671) 689-7621. Send e-mail to albert.abadam@usarec.army.mil.

Information about Army Opportunities can also be obtained on the Internet at <http://www.goarmy.com>

Typhoon Dianmu delays Magicland

Magicland’s arrival on Saipan will be delayed by a few days due to the untimely advent of Supertyphoon Dianmu. However, the bigger and better-than-ever Magicland 2004 is definitely on its way and is now scheduled to open at the Hopwood Junior High School on Sunday, June 27.

Fantastic entertainment, 14 super carnival rides and an array of games—great, wholesome fun and excitement for the whole family, especially the children—await one and all.

Magicland guests will be entertained by free ‘mini shows’ throughout the evening, including clowns, Polynesian dancing, magic acts and our internationally renowned and beautiful contortionist “Jasmine”, according to impresario Tupa’i Bruno Loyale. Magicland will open daily at 5pm.

Magicland claims that its array of 14 great rides and eight unique carnival games is the largest and best anywhere in the Pacific.

“This year we really have something for everyone, from the smallest children to the most brave-hearted adults, said Loyale. “We’re bringing back many of your favorite rides from last year plus the thrilling new ‘Rock-o-Plane’ and hair-raising ‘Octopus’ for the truly adventurous.”

For additional information about Magicland 2004 contact Dick Beaulieu in Fiji at (679) 672-0600; fax 672-5064; or email islmedia@connect.com.fj.

northern marianas amusement
+red

NMC tourney raises over \$100K, reduces player fees

Due to what the NMC Foundation has termed an “unprecedented success” in fundraising efforts through corporate donations, its golf committee has voted to reduce fees for individual players in the upcoming NMC Foundation Open on June 26-27, 2004. Early player entrance fees will be reduced from \$200 to \$150, with a late fee from \$300 down to \$175 for anyone who signs up after June 23.

Golf great Bruce William Devlin will play in the two-day benefit tournament at Kingfisher Golf Links to help the Northern Marianas College Foundation raise funds for higher education.

“We have already raised more than \$100K in cash donations—actually doubling our goal of \$50K—so we have decided to pass some of this benefit back to the players,” said NMC Foundation president Jerry Tan. “With a pro like Bruce Devlin attending the event, we want to make sure that more people have the opportunity to play with this great golfer who is volunteering his time to help us raise money for the college.”

According to Tan, the organizing committee has also agreed to lower the price for a golf clinic that Devlin will teach as part of the fundraising activities on Friday, June 25. The fee will go down to \$60 from \$90 for a one-hour session, \$100 for a two-hour session and \$125 for the three full hours of the clinic, which will start at 1:00 p.m. at Kingfisher Golf Links.

A very accomplished golfer, Devlin turned professional in 1961 and is an 8-time winner of the PGA Tour. He won the Senior PGA Tour in 1995 and is also well known as a professional golf commentator. He has been involved in designing and building over 140 golf courses around the world.

“The chance to play and get some personal tips from Bruce is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for most of us, and certainly



FAS Moving & Storage donates \$1,500 to the Northern Marianas College in support of the 2nd Annual NMC Foundation Open fundraising event, which will be held June 26-27, 2004 at Kingfisher Golf Links. General Manager George M. Fleming, Jr., center, presents the check to foundation board members, left to right, Ivan Quichocho, David Atalig, NMC Foundation president Jerry Tan, and Michael Von Siebenthal. Golf great Bruce William Devlin will donate his time to play in the two-day benefit tournament to help the Northern Marianas College Foundation raise funds for the school.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

a first for Saipan. We’re greatly looking forward to welcoming Mr. Devlin to the island and are so pleased that he has generously agreed to join our tournament and offer the clinic,” said Tan.

A committee of Foundation board members and business volunteers has been soliciting corporate donations and planning this major event for the college for the past six months. The committee is co-chaired by businesspeople and NMC Foundation board members, including Jerry Tan, Ivan Quichocho, John Cox, David Burger, Lynn Knight, Youichi Matsumura, Michael Von Siebenthal, Joanna Pai, David Atalig, Reina Camacho and Tony Satur of NMC.

Entry forms and sign ups for the tournament and clinic are being accepted at NMC, Kingfisher Golf Links, the Saipan Tribune, and Century Hotel front desk. For anyone who has already signed up and paid at the original higher fees, the organizing committee has said they will reimburse the difference in cost during the first day of the event.

For more information, call the college at 234-5498, extension 1000/1007 or Tony Satur at 888-3324.

Red flag up on 3 beach sites

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on three beach sites on Saipan after samples collected from these locations were found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria—enterococci—that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

The beach sites are Bird Island Beach, North Laulau Beach, South Laulau Beach.

DEQ said that the bacteria found on these waters can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

“However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public

health concerns,” said the agency.

However, in order to adequately address public health concerns, DEQ is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The agency has also analyzed water samples collected from Managaha’s recreational beaches and storm water drainages and has declared the waters on the island safe for swimming.

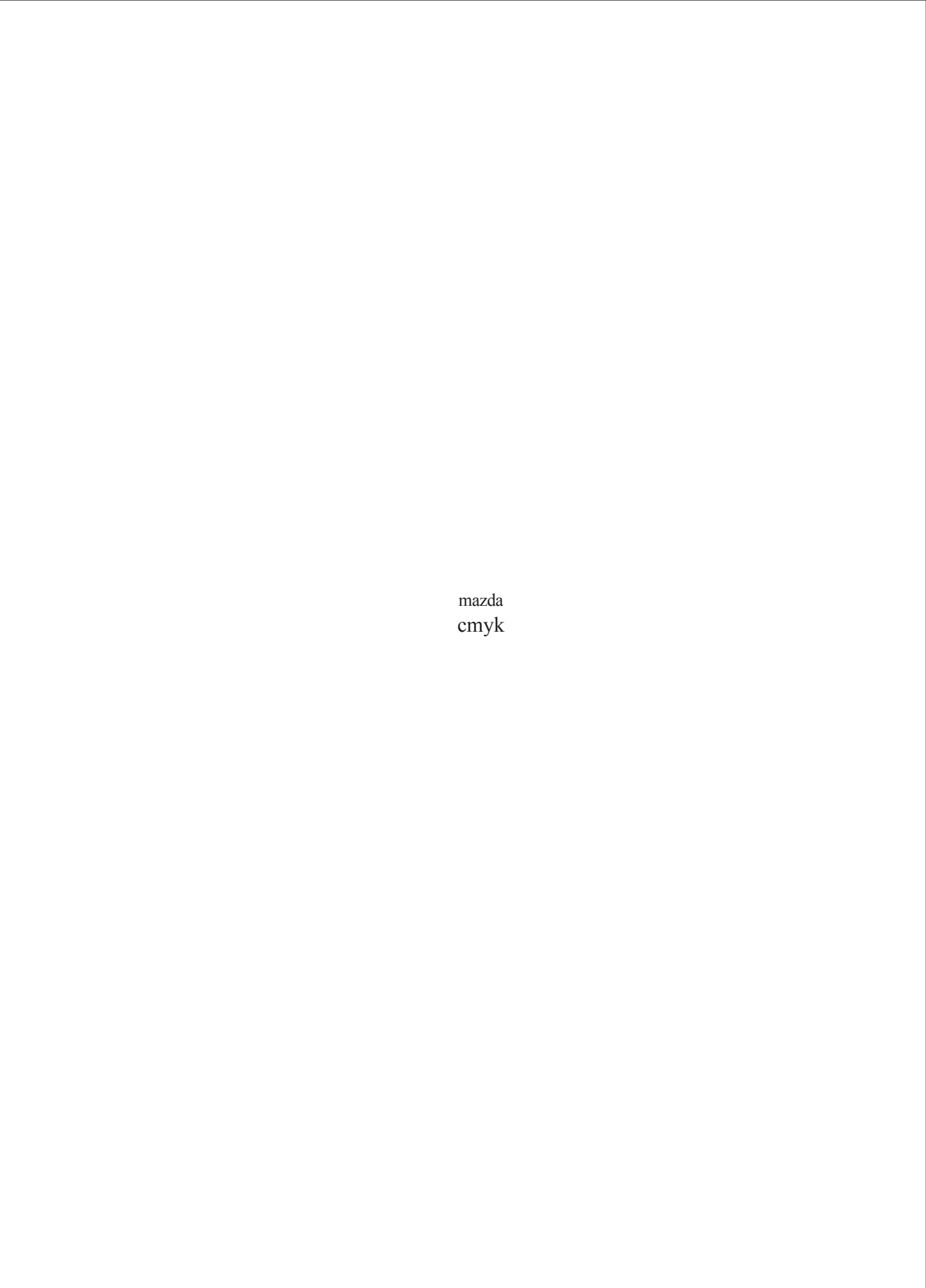
DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan’s beaches every week.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter.

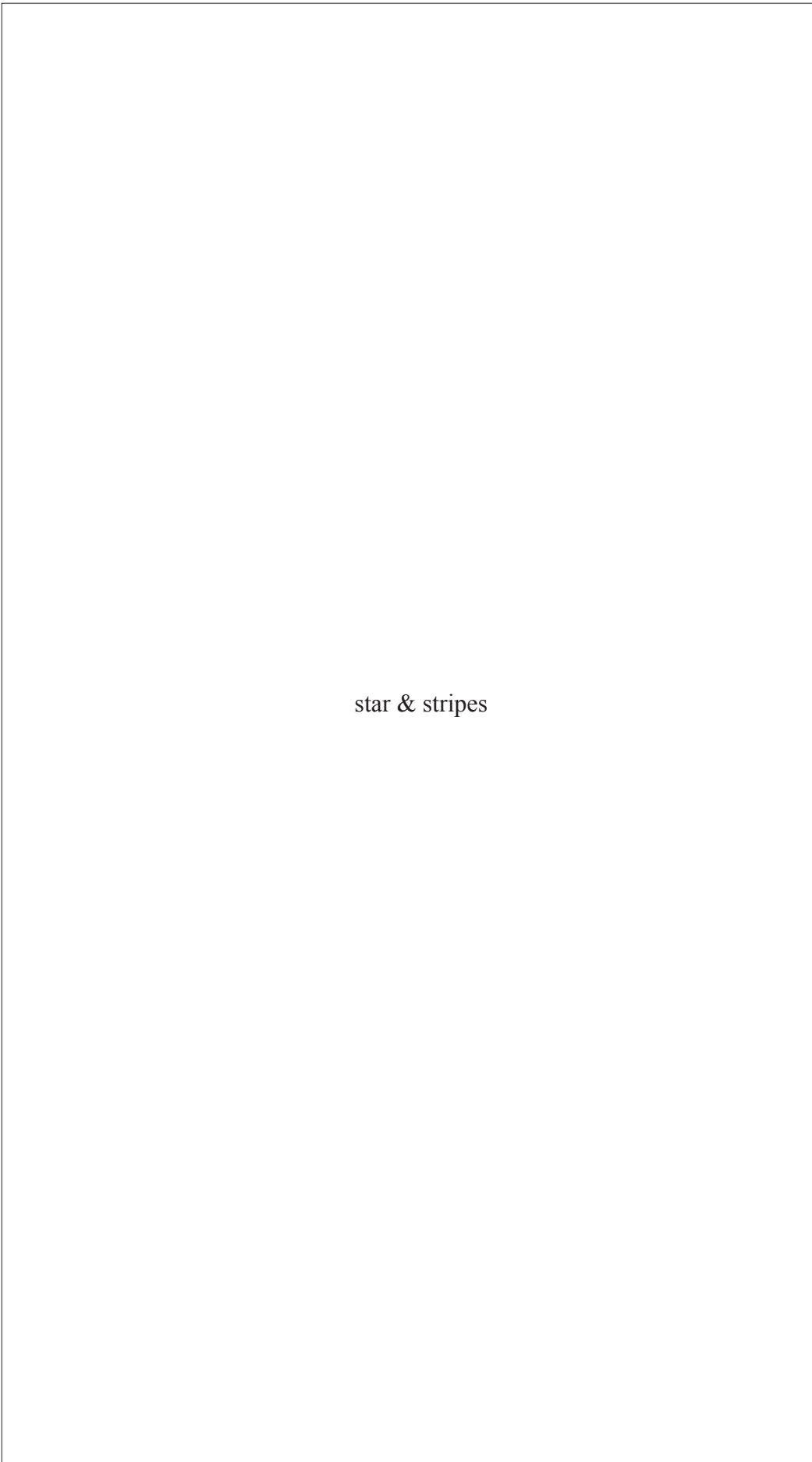
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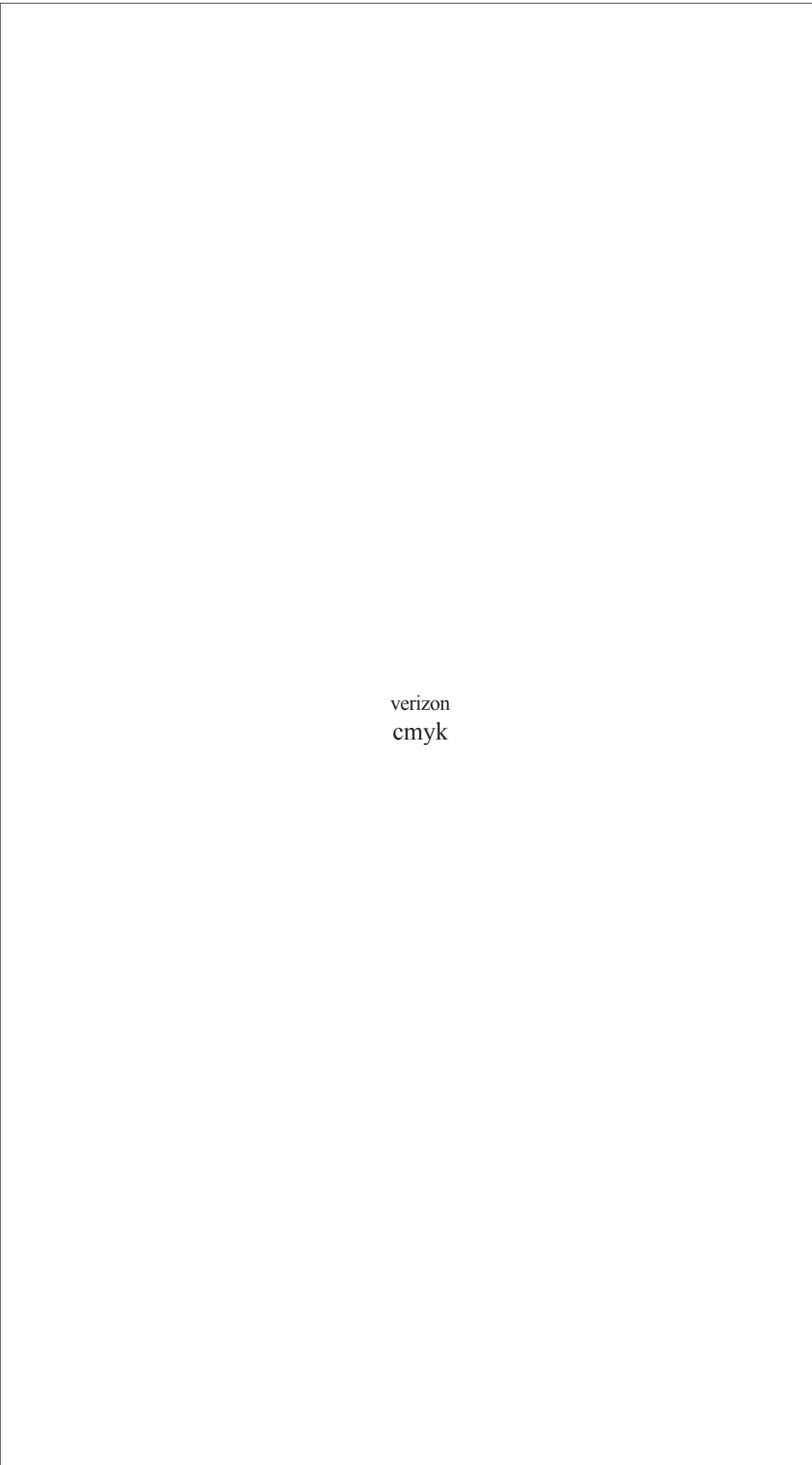
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Asia

Six killed in Pakistan and militant clashes

By Riaz Khan
AP WRITER

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani forces Wednesday fought off militants who attacked two military posts in a lawless tribal region near Afghanistan with rocket launchers and machine guns. One soldier and five militants were killed.

Also, a top official said security was strengthened at Parliament in the capital Islamabad because of the threat of a terrorist attack ahead of a visit by President Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

The fighting in South Waziristan came days after a major army operation against al-Qaida suspects that killed at least 72 people. The battles showed the rugged region near the Afghan border is still far from secure.

In the first clash Wednesday, at least two militants and one soldier were killed when between 70 and 80 militants staged a night assault on Ladha Fort, a paramilitary post about 20 miles north of Wana, the main town in the region.

An official in Wana said on condition of anonymity the two militants whose bodies were

recovered after a three-hour gun-battle appeared to be Uzbeks. He said five soldiers were wounded. An army statement said that scores of militants were injured.

The militants “ran away leaving behind two dead bodies while they dragged away a few more dead bodies from the area,” the statement said.

It said they also left behind a small machine gun, a rocket launcher and grenades.

Later, three more militants were killed in a shootout in Shiringo, 22 miles west of Wana, after another military post came under attack, a senior security official said on condition of anonymity.

Security forces used artillery and other heavy weapons to return fire. They saw three bodies roll down from a nearby hilltop but have not retrieved them, fearing hostile fire, the official said, adding that no soldiers were hurt in the clash.

Hundreds of foreign al-Qaida-linked militants are still believed to be hiding in South Waziristan, along with supporters of Afghanistan’s former ruling Taliban regime. They are thought to include Arabs, Central Asians and Afghans.

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Bush outlines new Afghanistan initiatives

By **DEB RIECHMANN**
AP WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush on Tuesday called Afghanistan the “first victory in the war on terror,” yet both he and Afghan President Hamid Karzai said the nation remains on a long, rocky path toward peace and economic prosperity.

“Three years ago, the Taliban had granted Osama bin Laden and his terrorist al-Qaida organization a safe refuge,” Bush said, standing alongside Karzai in a Rose Garden so humid that the Afghan leader shed his cloak.

“Afghanistan is no longer a terrorist factory sending thousands of killers into the world,” Bush said.

The United States, which in recent months has increased its force in Afghanistan to about 20,000 troops, is helping to build the new Afghan national army and train new Afghan police and border patrol. The president, who is using the battle against terrorism as a centerpiece of his re-election campaign, listed five new ways America would help Karzai.

But he added: “The road ahead for Afghanistan is still long and difficult.”

Nearly 500 people have died in violence across Afghanistan so far this year. Many are victims of the Taliban-led insurgency; others have died in factional and tribal fighting

linked to the country’s booming drug trade.

The country’s illicit cultivation of opium poppies supplied almost three-fourths of the world’s opium last year and helps finance terrorists.

“The Afghan government is adamant, the Afghan people are adamant to fight this menace, to end it in Afghanistan and receive your help in that,” Karzai said.

Bush announced that the United States would:

- Launch a training program for newly elected Afghan politicians.
- Help print millions of new textbooks, build schools for girls as well as boys and develop a new \$4 million women’s teacher training institute in Kabul.
- Set up new cultural exchange programs.
- Pursue a bilateral trade and investment agreement.
- Dedicate \$5 million to fund training programs and grants for small business, including those run by women.

Robert Weiner, spokesman for the Office of National Drug Policy from 1995 to 2001, noted that curbing the cultivation of poppies was not on the list of initiatives Bush announced.

“They offered nothing against drugs despite its obvious importance against terror,” Weiner said. “We need a real plan - eradication and enforcement with the help of our thousands of troops there, with planes spraying and troops burning and chopping—to get the job done.”

Afghanistan’s first election since the United States drove out the Taliban rulers in 2002 is on track for September. Security and logistical problems postponed it from June. Karzai, who is president by vote of a grand council, under traditional Afghan practice, is running against a number of challengers.

Karzai denied that he’s made any political pacts with former Islamic militant leaders.

“No deals have been made,” Karzai said, adding that, as president, he needs to talk with Afghans from all backgrounds to assure peaceful, democratic elections.

Asked who would try fugitive Taliban leader Mullah Omar and bin Laden, whose al-Qaida network is blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington, Karzai said Afghanistan would consult other nations on how to bring them to justice.

“Osama and Mullah Omar have committed crimes against the Afghan people, against the people in the United States and against the international community,” Karzai said.

“They are wanted by the world conscience,” he said. “They have to be arrested and tried. And when they are arrested, we will consult the international community and find appropriate mechanism for their trial.”

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AP
President Bush, right, and Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai walk from the Oval Office to the Rose Garden at the White House Tuesday, June 15, 2004 in Washington.

S. Korea's ruling party talks of sending troop dispatch to Iraq

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Leaders of South Korea's ruling political party met Thursday to decide whether to support government plans to send 3,600 troops to northern Iraq to support the U.S.-led coalition.

The meeting follows appeals by President Roh Moo-hyun for cooperation from the Uri party after some party members demanded that the long-delayed plan to dispatch troops be reconsidered.

The National Security Council is also expected to meet this week to decide details of when the troops would travel to Iraq, and where they would deploy. South Korea reportedly plans to send the troops to Irbil in northern Iraq this summer.

Roh has held firm on the plan despite the uproar over the prisoner abuse scandal involving U.S. troops in Iraq, as well as

the unstable security situation in many parts of the country. Irbil is in a relatively quiet area.

South Korea had originally planned to send troops to the northern Iraqi town of Kirkuk as early as April. The plan was canceled amid concerns it would involve combat operations, in violation of a parliamentary mandate for peacekeeping duties only.

"In the early days, when we decided to send troops, there was a burden that our troops had to assist security directly or indirectly and take defensive actions, though the troops were only for reconstruction," Roh told Uri party members on Wednesday.

"But the safety of the troops has increased as the destination changed to Irbil from Kirkuk," Roh said. He was quoted by South Korea's national news agency, Yonhap.

China opens embassy in Dominica

ROSEAU, Dominica (AP)—China has opened an embassy in Dominica, its eighth in the Caribbean as it competes with Taiwan for diplomatic allies in the region.

Chinese Foreign Affairs Vice Minister Zhou Wenzhong said Wednesday his country is ready to assist Caribbean countries as they fight to compete in the global market.

"As developing states, China and Caribbean countries face the daunting task of developing their economies and meeting the challenges of economic globalization," he said. "We believe that by helping other developing countries, China will benefit in terms of equipment export and technology and trade."

Dominica joins Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Suriname, Antigua and Barbuda,

and Trinidad and Tobago as formal diplomatic allies of China.

Dominica recently established ties with China, which has promised some EC\$300 million (US\$112 million) in aid to the country.

Taiwan responded by severing diplomatic connections with the cash-strapped island, one of the poorest in the region.

The Caribbean, with its small island nations and hard-pressed economies, long has been a dueling ground for China and Taiwan, which accuse each other of "dollar diplomacy" to win votes at the United Nations.

Though democratic Taiwan is self-governing, communist Beijing insists it's part of China and shouldn't have formal relations with other countries. The two sides split amid civil war in 1949.

Bomb hits NATO vehicle in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A bomb hit a car used by NATO-led peacekeepers in northern Afghanistan Wednesday, killing four civilians including two children, police said.

The attack came a week after 11 Chinese workers were shot in their beds in the same province, and a day after President Bush lauded Afghanistan as the "first victory in the war on terror."

Police said the bomb showered shrapnel on the SUV as it passed through a busy market in Kunduz, 150 miles north of the capital, Kabul.

"A mine was detonated on the edge of the road by remote control," Kunduz police chief Mutaleb Beg said. "The driver lost control and ran the car into a wall."

The Afghan driver, as well as

two children about 10 and an elderly man who were passers-by, were killed, Beg said. Another youngster was injured, he said.

A spokesman for the peacekeepers, squadron leader Sean McFetrich, said the vehicle was clearly marked with the international force's green insignia and German flags.

He denied Beg's suggestion that it was part of a military convoy from the 250-strong German contingent, which patrols the region. He said the car was being taken to a local garage for servicing when the attack occurred.

Insurgents, active mainly in the south and east of Afghanistan, have vowed to sabotage the country's first post-Taliban national vote later this year and

appear to be expanding into the relatively stable north.

The bloodshed is hampering U.N. efforts to register voters in the south and east, but both the U.S. military and President Hamid Karzai say the vote should go ahead as planned in September.

Kunduz is the only place outside the Afghan capital where the 6,400-strong NATO-led security force has a presence, though it plans to set up at least five more so-called Provincial Reconstruction Teams in time for the elections.

NATO nations have been slow to pledge extra soldiers and equipment for the rollout, but the force's commander said Wednesday he expected an order to send troops to the areas around the northern cities of

Mazar-e-Sharif and Maymana.

"I do believe it's still possible to set the conditions for elections here," Lt. Gen. Rick Hillier said.

The 11 Chinese road workers and an Afghan guard were killed June 10 in Kunduz province in the worst attack on foreign civilians since the fall of the Taliban regime in late 2001.

Five members of medical relief agency Medecins Sans Frontieres, or Doctors Without Borders, including three Europeans, were fatally shot in the remote northwest on June 2.

Another explosion early Wednesday damaged the office of Afghanaid, a British relief agency, in Faizabad in northeastern Badakhshan province, slightly injuring an Afghan guard.

arc fathers day ad

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90 sickened by food, tea in S. China

BEIJING (AP)—At least 70 people became sick in southern China after eating sandwiches from a bakery chain. Twenty others were hospitalized after they drank herb tea containing pesticide, the government said.

The customers of 100 Point Artistic Bakery in Meizhou, a city in Guangdong province, complained of stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting and fever, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Most were in stable condition after treatment at the Meizhou City People’s Hospital between Sunday and Tuesday, Xinhua said, citing doctors.

Local authorities have suspended the sale and production of the suspect food and have organized a recall. An investigation was under way, Xinhua said.

Meanwhile, more than 20 people were in stable condition in the city of Beihai in the Guangxi region after drinking the herb tea, Xinhua said.

The victims—who ranged in age from 3 to 60 years old—began vomiting and feeling dizzy after drinking the tea from a street vendor Tuesday night, it said.

The report did not give the exact number of people sickened.

Xinhua said investigators found traces of pesticide in the tea but it was not immediately clear if the chemical had been put in the beverage on purpose.

Bush elevates military ties with Pakistan

MacDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AP)—Following through on a promise, President Bush on Wednesday elevated U.S. military ties with Pakistan, granting it benefits enjoyed by only a handful of countries outside the NATO alliance.

Bush designated Pakistan as a major “non-NATO ally” of the United States.

The new status, which administration aides said recognizes Pakistan’s help in the war on terrorism, makes the nuclear-armed central Asian country eligible for priority delivery of defense materials.

The designation comes amid strengthening U.S.-Pakistani relations and was made as Bush addressed U.S. forces here - and in Iraq and Afghanistan via a satellite hookup.

The benefits of this status include eligibility to have U.S.-owned stockpiles of defense articles in Pakistan outside U.S. military installations. It also makes Pakistan eligible to use U.S.-provided foreign military financing to commercially lease some defense articles.

When Bush’s intentions were announced in March by Secretary of State Colin Powell during a visit to Islamabad, it drew immediate protests from India, Pakistan’s neighbor and rival.

India does not enjoy such status.

Singapore police crack down on prostitutes

SINGAPORE (AP)—Police are cracking down on a surge in Chinese prostitutes plying their trade in Singapore’s historical Chinatown district, a police spokeswoman said Thursday.

The action follows a flurry of local media coverage depicting avaricious young Chinese women aggressively soliciting older Singaporean men. One tabloid ran front-page coverage Tuesday headlined “So Bold!”, with photos of the “China gals.”

“Police are aware of the situation at Chinatown and have conducted raids there,” police spokeswoman Rachel Yeo told The Associated Press. “We will continue to monitor the situation closely and take enforcement action.”

Prostitution is legal in this tightly ruled Southeast Asian country of four million, but sex workers must confine themselves to certain districts of brothels. Prostitutes must also register with the authorities, and get regular health checks.

Soliciting for sex, however, is against the law. First-time offenders face fines of up to 1,000 Singapore dollars (US\$582), and repeat offenders

can be fined up to S\$2,000 (US\$1,165) and also jailed for six months.

Last year, Singapore police arrested 2,301 foreign women for vice offenses—such as soliciting—throughout the island, down from 3,422 arrests in 2002, according to police figures.

“The level of vice activities in Singapore is largely under control,” Yeo said.

Japan shipping home Antarctica garbage

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese researchers in Antarctica are getting serious about cleaning up the half-century’s worth of garbage piled up at their base on the southernmost continent, an official said Thursday.

Building materials, cast-off snow vehicles and fuel drums have collected at the research base since the first expedition was launched in 1956. By 1998, the garbage weighed about 500 tons (550 short tons) and research teams began chipping away at the pile to clear it.

Now, those efforts are being accelerated in an international effort to clean up Antarctica. Japan’s Science Ministry hopes to send the remaining 337 tons (370 tons) of garbage home within four years, ministry official Suguru Suzuki said.

Tokyo has sent research teams to Antarctica almost every year since 1956. In the past, ships went to Japan’s Showa Base mainly to deliver supplies—not to pick up garbage, Japanese newspapers reported.

Japan’s 62 scientists currently stationed at Showa are studying ozone holes, sea life and world climate and weather patterns.

Antarctica, with well-preserved ice averaging 1,820 meters (6,000 feet) thick, is one of the few places where scientists can examine climate change over time because chemicals from the air have been frozen in layers of ice year after year for centuries.

Nepal bus accident kills at least 12

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A passenger bus veered off a mountainous highway west of the Nepalese capital Wednesday, killing at least 12 passengers and leaving many more injured, police said.

The bus drove off the Prithvi highway at Aghorbhanjyang, about 50 miles west of Katmandu, and rolled about 100 yards to the bottom of the hill.

The bus was on the road—which has several hairpin turns - because the main highway out of Katmandu was closed for repairs.

Police official reached over the telephone near the accident site said rescuers were still pulling the injured from the wreckage. The official said they had recovered 12 bodies.

There were about 50 passengers on the bus as it had picked up people from another bus which had engine problems.

The official said they did not know the reason for the accident but visibility was poor and roads slippery due to the rain.

Accidents are common on Nepal’s poorly maintained highways, where most of them passes through mountainous areas with hairpin turns. It is often hit by landslides.

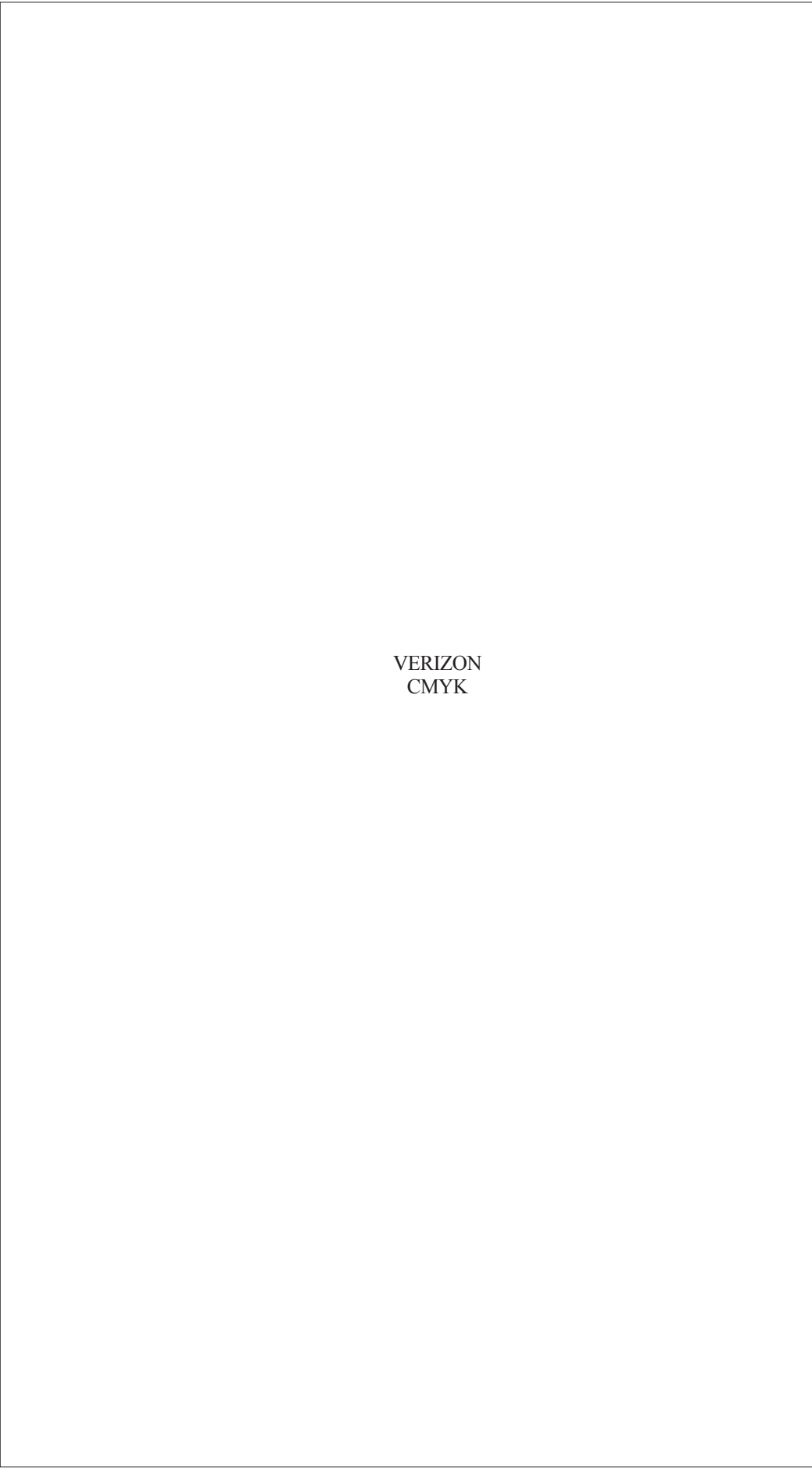
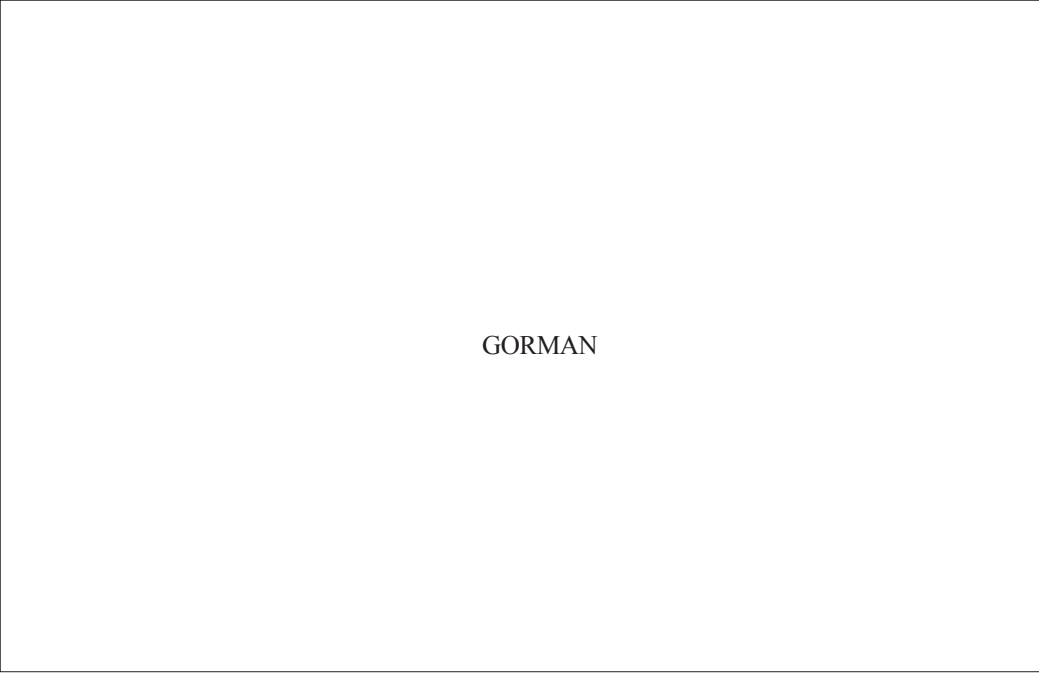
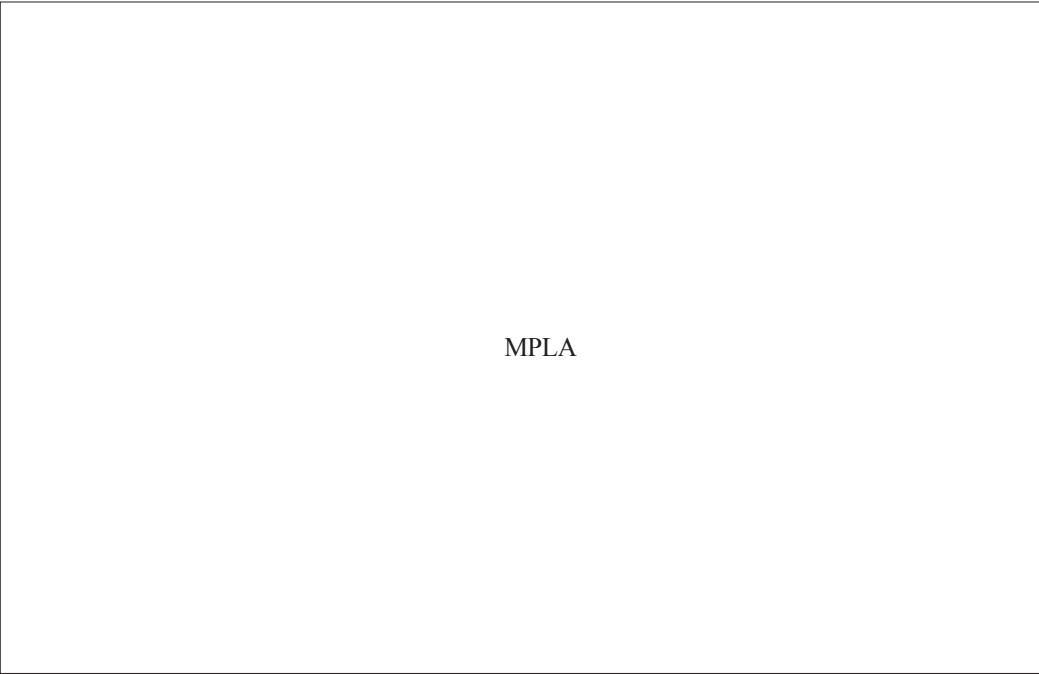
Indian state, rebels announce cease-fire

HYDERABAD, India (AP)—Authorities in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh announced a three-month cease-fire Wednesday in their campaign to crush communist rebels whose attacks have killed more than 6,000 people over two decades.

The People’s War Group has demanded a six-month truce as a primary precondition for negotiations. The organization is one of the most powerful rebel groups in India after the Islamic militants fighting in the northern state of Jammu-kashmir. It was not clear if the rebels had accepted the cease-fire offer.

Members of the PWG, which is active in five southern and eastern states of India, often attack rich landowners, saying they exploit landless farm workers.

On Tuesday, the rebels said they were ready for talks aimed at ending more than two decades of bloodshed. The group also demanded guarantees for the safe passage for its leaders attending the talks.



World

Labor party backs Sharon government

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel’s opposition Labor Party backed Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in a crucial parliamentary vote Wednesday, a day after he was cleared of corruption charges—boosting Sharon’s plan to pull out of the Gaza Strip.

Labor was sending signals of readiness to join Sharon’s government to promote the Gaza move, but there was stiff opposition from party members on both sides. Also, a poll showed the Israeli public was not behind a Sharon-Labor team.

Sharon lost his parliamentary majority while ramming the Gaza withdrawal proposal through his Cabinet, dismissing one pro-settlement faction, while part of another one

walked out in protest.

The plan calls for removing all 7,500 Jewish settlers and the military from Gaza by the end of 2005. Four small settlements from the northern West Bank would also be evacuated.

Sharon and his Likud Party had for decades championed settlement construction. Sharon’s sudden about-face, favoring removal of settlements in Gaza and the West Bank for the first time since Israel captured the territories in the 1967 Middle East war, angered his own power base but won praise from his parliamentary opponents in Labor.

To shore up Sharon’s coalition, Labor pledged to abstain in votes of no confidence in the

parliament, keeping the government afloat though it lacks a majority.

On Wednesday, Labor took its backing a step further, abstaining on an opposition move to dissolve the parliament and call elections. The proposal was voted down 53-13 with 15 abstentions. Traditionally, all opposition factions vote in favor of such bills.

Under Israeli law, a motion to call elections cannot be filed again for six months, removing some of the pressure on the shaky government, though it could still be vulnerable to no-confidence motions.

Labor had said it would not consider joining Sharon’s government until the attorney general

ruled on a bribery case involving the premier. On Tuesday, the case was closed for lack of evidence. Afterward, Labor Party leader Shimon Peres hinted strongly that he wants to guide his party back into the government.

“The Labor Party has only one consideration—what will promote peace, what will hasten the evacuation of the Gaza Strip,” Peres said.

However, some Labor lawmakers are opposed, preferring to try to topple the government. Sharon and Labor teamed up during Sharon’s first term as premier from 2001 to 2003, but the government broke apart over the

issue of funding settlements.

Also, Likud opponents of the Gaza pullout plan oppose bringing in their ideological opponents from Labor, which favors evacuating most of the settlements in the West Bank as well as the ones in Gaza. Sharon’s plan is to trade the small Gaza settlements for a strengthened hold over large parts of the West Bank—provoking stiff Palestinian criticism.

A poll published Wednesday in the Yediot Ahronot daily showed that Israelis are doubtful about reconstituting the Labor-Likud team.



Sharon

According to the Dahaf poll, only 37 percent supported Labor’s entering the government, while 54 percent were opposed. The poll questioned 500 Israeli adults and had a margin of error of 4.4 percentage points.

Also Wednesday, Israel contractors were forced to halt construction of a section of a West Bank separation barrier after clashes erupted between soldiers and hundreds of Palestinian demonstrators. Witnesses said soldiers fired tear gas, but no injuries were reported.

Israel says the barrier is necessary to stop Palestinian suicide bombers, but Palestinians complain it dips deep into the West Bank.

Rebels holding terror suspect seek ransom

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—The expected arrest in the Sahara Desert of a man believed to be one of North Africa’s most-wanted terror suspects is snagged over a rebel group’s demand for more money, an official close to the case said Wednesday.

Amari Saifi, an Algerian militant linked by Western officials to al-Qaida, is thought to be in the hands of a Chadian rebel group that captured him in March.

Diplomats said earlier that the rebels had contacted Algeria, France, Germany, the West African nation of Niger and the United States about handing over Saifi and followers captured with him.

The official of a country involved in the case, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the rebels were holding out for the “highest bidder.”

Saifi, the No. 2 of a violent armed Algerian Islamic extremist group, is wanted in the killing of 43 Algerian soldiers and the Sahara kidnapping of 32 European tourists, both last year.

A former Algerian paratrooper, he is better known by his nom de guerre, al Para.

The rebel group, the Movement for Democracy and Justice in Chad, claimed to have captured Saifi in March after an intense battle near Chad’s border with Niger.

Algerian troops had hoped to take custody of Saifi in the first week of this month. Algerian forces traveled then to what was thought would be a handoff point in the remote desert of Niger, which neighbors Chad, authorities said.

But the official confirmed Wednesday that Saifi’s handoff has yet to happen.

The Chadian rebels apparently delayed the transfer in hopes of a payoff from Germany, which is seeking Saifi in connection with the kidnapping of its nationals, the official said.

“The stuff with the Germans didn’t come through,” and no breakthrough has occurred since, the official said.

In Berlin, the German Foreign Ministry said it was playing no part in the current dealings over Saifi. “We can only conduct extradition proceedings with governments,” the spokesman said, on customary condition of anonymity.

Protesters cut power to Eiffel Tower

PARIS (AP)—French power workers cut electricity to the Eiffel Tower and President Jacques Chirac’s residence in western Paris on Wednesday to protest the government’s plans to partially privatize state utilities in an effort to raise money.

Electricity was shut down at the presidential Elysee Palace, several government ministries and the Champs-Elysees avenue for about 15 minutes Wednesday afternoon. Some stores evacuated shoppers.

At the Eiffel Tower, tourists did not notice the outage because a backup electric plan kicked in, officials at the monument said.

The power outages affected homes and offices in western Paris, including The Associated Press bureau. Power authorities

said 52,000 clients were hit.

The CGT trade union said the outages were part of attempts to force the conservative government to drop plans to transform Electricite de France and Gaz de France—known by their acronyms EDF and GDF—from state agencies into limited companies.

The government has promised to keep at least 70 percent of EDF, but it hopes to raise billions of dollars for the heavily indebted French state by selling a minority stake in the power utility. Parliament began debating the plan a day earlier, with France’s opposition left fighting the reform.

Protesters are worried that opening the door to outside investment will ultimately put utilities in private hands, threatening their jobs and retirement benefits.

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Europe keeps pressure on Iran over nukes

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—Europe’s three major powers shrugged off Iranian threats of retaliation Wednesday and put the final touches on a tough resolution rebuking Tehran for continued nuclear cover-ups.

The new draft seen by The Associated Press retained strong language designed to maintain pressure on Iran a year after the International Atomic Energy Agency began to probe nearly two decades of its suspect nuclear program.

Delegates at a meeting of the IAEA’s 35-nation board of governors described the draft, written by France, Britain and Germany, as strongly worded. Slight modifications were

meant to appease nonaligned nations traditionally allied with Iran, the delegates said on condition of anonymity.

“The substance remains the same,” one delegate said. “The heat is still on.”

A new clause “recognizing the inalienable right of states” to develop peaceful nuclear programs was one of the modifications. Iran insists its nuclear ambitions are restricted to generating electricity and not making bombs.

Another was the insertion of the word “voluntarily” in asking Iran to reconsider testing of a uranium conversion plant and construction of a heavy water research reactor—projects with

possible weapons applications.

But the resolution kept key passages expressing “concern” and “serious concern” about Iran’s foot-dragging or “deploring” its spotty record of cooperation with the IAEA investigation.

Suggesting agreement was close, the delegate said the draft could be formally submitted to the meeting by Thursday.

Iran has suspended its uranium enrichment program but has refused to scrap it altogether. France, Britain and Germany have promised to provide Tehran with nuclear technology if and when all suspicions about a weapons program are put to rest.

Ex-Colombia rebel describes recruiting

WASHINGTON (AP)—A former Colombian rebel leader who defected last year said Wednesday his one-time colleagues used “fascist-like techniques” to win new recruits for their goal of transforming the country politically and economically.

Carlos Alberto Plotter, who once served as a commander of the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces, said he believes negotiations are the best way to end 40 years of civil war in his country.

Plotter, who turned himself in to the government in May 2003, spoke to a gathering at the conservative Heritage Foundation.

He said the FARC, the rebels’ shorthand name, recruited peasants at gunpoint and “actually subjugated the population through force.”

Speaking through a translator, Plotter said peasants in some areas had a choice of joining the FARC or being forced from their homes.

“The FARC is far from achieving their goal of transforming society,” he said.

Colombian President Alvaro Uribe has stepped up pressure on the FARC since assuming office two years ago. The latest report on Colombia by the U.N. High Commissioner for Human

Rights criticized all parties to Colombia’s conflict—the government, the FARC, the ELN leftist insurgents and rightist paramilitary forces.

“The human rights situation remains critical,” said the report, released in March. The war claims about 3,500 lives every year.

Plotter took encouragement from political developments in countries such as Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay, where, he said, traditionally underrepresented majority populations now have more political clout.

He said he was unaware of any FARC ties to Cuba, Venezuela or the Irish Republican Army.

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Science & Technology

Life & Style

Fans mark fictional centenary of ‘Ulysses’

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK
AP WRITER

With straw hats, bonnets and lace-trimmed dresses—but barely a mutton kidney in sight—thousands of James Joyce fans on Wednesday immersed themselves in the fictional 100th anniversary of “Ulysses.”

“Bloomsday” festivities, commemorating the one-day wandering of Leopold Bloom into every nook and cranny of a long-lost Dublin on June 16, 1904, have grown each year. The current “ReJoyce Dublin” festival featured more than 80 exhibits and events across the capital devoted to Joyce and his masterwork.

None was more traditional than Wednesday’s breakfast at the James Joyce Center, a Georgian town house in the shadow of the writer’s Jesuit-run alma mater, Belvedere College.

“I’ve brought my best walking shoes. I’m going to cover the whole route Bloom did—unless the pubs stop me,” said Stephen Hammond, a visitor from England who set off with a map of Dublin annotated with “Ulysses” landmarks.

On an unusually warm and blazingly sunny day, hundreds of tourists in T-shirts and shorts stood in the street alongside aficionados sweating in heavy Edwardian costumes, waiting their turn for breakfast. Inside, an elite

crowd—among them President Mary McAleese—dined in the shade.

The event recreates Episode 4 of the mammoth novel, as Bloom cooks a hardcore breakfast of organ meats for himself and his adulterous wife, Molly.

“Mr. Leopold Bloom ate with relish the inner organs of beasts and fowls,” goes the famous passage, which was read aloud by local celebrity guests and diners alike. “He liked thick giblet soup, nutty gizzards, a stuffed roast heart, liver slices fried with crustcrumbs, fried hencod’s roes. Most of all he liked grilled mutton kidneys which gave to his palate a fine tang of faintly scented urine.”

No sign of that on most people’s

plates Wednesday, though.

“We’ve found that mutton kidneys aren’t terribly popular. We have some available, but they tend to end up in the bin,” said Helen Monaghan, a grandniece of Joyce who runs the center. “People much prefer their ‘Bloomsday’ to be washed down with a breakfast pint of Guinness.”

Indeed, the many pubs still standing today that were featured in the “Ulysses” odyssey of Bloom and Stephen Dedalus were the targets of special attention Wednesday, particularly Davy Byrne’s off the posh Grafton Street shopping precinct, where drinkers poured into the street and surrounded

a few horse-drawn carriages ferrying sun-soaked Joyceans.

Later, thousands were expected to celebrate “Ulysses” with an evening of parades, dancing and drama on O’Connell Street, the main Dublin boulevard.

In the southern coastal suburb of Sandycove, where the novel opens in a Napoleonic-era tower, breakfast led on to a daylong street party dominated by seafood, wine and a few impromptu readings from the opening of “Ulysses.”

Joyce briefly lived in that tower in Sandycove in 1904 before he fled Ireland for literary inspiration in the Adriatic port of Trieste, Paris and the Swiss city of Zurich, where he died in 1941 at 58.

BOOK REVIEW

The Queen of the South,
by Arturo Perez-Reverte

Fesperman is a staff writer for The Sun and an author whose latest novel, The Small Boat of Great Sorrows, won Britain’s Ian Fleming Steel Dagger Award for best thriller.

Reviewed by DAN FESPERMAN
THE BALTIMORE SUN

The hero who runs the show in an Arturo Perez-Reverte novel tends to be of a genteel type, with a noble pedigree or suitably refined job title—art expert or fencing master, museum curator or rare-book hunter. When he kills or dies, it is often while pursuing something noble, or at least intellectually intriguing, such as a historic nautical treasure, a forbidden manuscript or lost honor.

Partly for that reason, critics and marketers seem determined to label Perez-Reverte—a Spaniard who has built a deservedly sizable American following—as an author of “intellectual thrillers,” a title promising brainy entertainment even while suggesting that this isn’t quite the stuff of literary greatness.

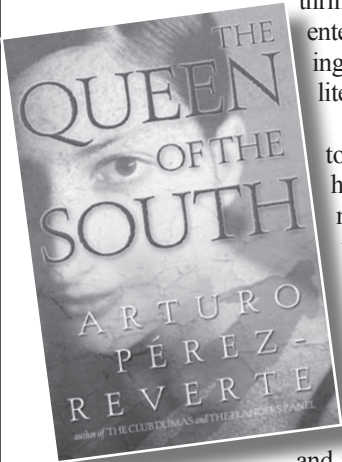
All the more surprising, then, to discover that the woman holding the title role of his newest novel, “The Queen of the South,” is Teresa Mendoza, a drug lord from common stock in rural Mexico.

Teresa is a girl of the streets who rises to wealth and power partly on luck and largely on pluck. Emotionally durable and insatiably curious, she flees for her life across the Atlantic to Morocco and Spain, taking her education where she can find it.

Her teachers are addicts and smugglers, hit men and grimy mechanics, corrupt politicians and shady attorneys. Any heart of gold in this crowd has been deeply tarnished by violence and vice. Their dialogue is coarse, their actions rough and unsparing, and the elder sage in the crowd is a Russian Mafioso, Oleg Yasikov, who confides to Teresa that the one necessary skill in their business involves “looking at a man and instantly knowing two things. First, how much he’s going to sell himself for. And second, when you’re going to have to kill him.”

Yet, even with such roughhewn raw materials, and despite a somewhat meandering beginning, “The Queen of the South” captivates the reader with a thoroughness and sophistication that Perez-Reverte’s previous novels never achieved. In addition, Teresa emerges as his fullest and most intriguing protagonist to date. She might also be the most sympathetic, no mean feat considering she has to win our hearts and minds while living by rules that are as appalling as they are harrowing.

Breaking away from the comforts of his usual “smart set” seems to have stretched Perez-Reverte’s range. Without his usual safety net of instantly likable roles and instantly admirable goals, he has to step more carefully into the heart and soul of his characters, and the nimbleness shows.



marpac
+red



urban outlet
+blue

Stallone begins Olympic torch run in LA

By BETH HARRIS
AP SPORTS WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sylvester Stallone kicked off a star-studded Olympic torch relay run through the streets of Los Angeles on Wednesday, taking the flame from Mayor James Hahn as the theme from his signature movie “Rocky” blared in the background.

After a quick trot across Venice Beach to the ocean, the actor set off toward Santa Monica, where he handed the flame over to Los Angeles Dodgers owner Frank McCourt. That began a relay through Los Angeles communities rich and poor, including Westwood, Beverly Hills, Hollywood, Koreatown and Boyle Heights, culminating at Dodger Stadium.

“This is the proudest moment of my life,” a beaming Stallone said with the Pacific Ocean in the background. “I just hope I can live up to what this flame represents, which is honor, dignity and a never-say-die spirit.”

Decked out in shorts and a blue-and-white T-shirt with a laurel wreath on the front, Stallone was the first of nearly 150 runners carrying the flame toward Dodger Stadium, each one using their torch to ignite one held by the next runner.

Carriers included everyday folks as well as celebrities such as Ellen DeGeneres and Tom Cruise and Olympic stars like Janet Evans and Rafer Johnson.

As DeGeneres ran up a steep hill toward Hollywood Boulevard, some of her friends lined the sidewalk, holding signs reading, “Run, Ellen, Run” and “Run Faster Ellen.”

“I’ve been practicing at home with a beer bottle,” DeGeneres said as she waited at a strip mall for the flame to arrive. “I’m honored that I’m part of this.”

As she slipped on her official torch runner T-shirt with “Athens 2004” and the five Olympic rings on the back, her mother, Betty, snapped pictures.

“They’ll wonder what I’m



AP
Actor Sylvester Stallone starts the U.S. journey of the Olympic torch from the edge of the Pacific Ocean in Venice Beach in Los Angeles Wednesday, June 16, 2004, after the flame arrived from Mexico. Los Angeles hosted the Summer Games in 1932 and 1984.

doing. There she goes, trying to get attention again,” the daytime TV host said as cars sped by, many with drivers oblivious to what was going on. When two buses filled with tourists drove by, DeGeneres stopped to wave to the stunned passengers.

“Ellen, we love you,” one person in a passing van shouted, and several people walked up to pose for pictures with her.

“This is the first time the torch is going around the world. That’s a landmark event and I wanted to see it in person,” said Jack Carr, 37 of West Hollywood, who came out to watch the relay and got to pose for a picture with DeGeneres.

The flame arrived overnight from Mexico. It will visit the previous U.S. Summer Olympic cities of St. Louis on Thursday

and Atlanta on Friday, then travel through New York on Saturday and on to Montreal on Sunday. After that it will head overseas again, on its way to Athens for the Summer Games Aug. 13-29.

Los Angeles hosted the Summer Olympics in 1932 and 1984.

Cruise was to carry the flame through Dodger Stadium’s center field gates before handing it off to WBC heavyweight champion Vitali Klitschko.

The boxer was to pass it to Evans, the quadruple Olympic gold medal-winning swimmer, who gave the flame to Muhammad Ali at the opening ceremony of the ‘96 Games in Atlanta.

Evans was to turn it over to Johnson, the Olympic decathlon champion who carried the torch in 1984 and ‘96, and will light a ceremonial cauldron.

Hanks and Spielberg team up in ‘Terminal’

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg said it’s not so bad to be stranded at an airport—especially if you’ve built it.

The actor and filmmaker worked together at a massive, three-story set in the desert outside Palmdale, Calif., for their new movie “The Terminal,” in which Hanks plays a man indefinitely stranded at an airport.

“Actually, I think an airport—if you don’t have to go anywhere, if you don’t have to make it to a plane on time—I think an airport is almost like a day spa,” Hanks told The Associated Press. “Take a book, park in short-term parking, get some work done, get a bite to eat, do some shopping, pick up something for the kids.”

The pretend terminal included

four working escalators, 60,000 square feet of marble floors, and 35 individual stores—including Burger King, Borders Books, Godiva chocolates and Hugo Boss clothing.

The stage, from production designer Alex McDowell, is one of the most elaborate ever constructed for a movie—although the cost wasn’t specified.

“It was the most comfortable set I’ve ever worked on because it was light, airy ... there was nobody smoking. There were plenty of places to sit,” Hanks said. “One of the computer terminals had a solitaire game on it.”

Many on the set feasted on the daily supply of doughnuts, hamburgers and chocolates. All of the eateries had working kitchens, to keep the display windows stocked

for each day of production.

“It was a working food court because all the vendors who lent us their names also lent us their personnel and working kitchens,” Spielberg said.

All the retail shops had working products, too.

Hanks said they’d have meetings at the Dean & DeLuca kitchenware store, and the manager there would say: “You want some coffee? I can make some coffee.”

“I used to go to the Brookstone, and I used to sit in the vibrating chair and read my script, they’d turn the chair on low vibrate and the little magic fingers would be crawling up my spine,” Spielberg added.

“I took a headset for my cell phone from the Verizon store,” Hanks confessed. “It’s nice.”

‘Hippie Dictionary’ defines a groovy era, so check it out

The 1960s and ‘70s were a trip: bad as in good, heavy as in deep, cosmic as in far-out, high as in clean out of sight. It was a time to get down, get back, get with it, get it on, get it together, get naked, get real, and get stupid—if you get my drift.

Everyone was an individual and everyone wore bell-bottoms, beads, granny glasses, sandals, fringe, headbands, peace symbols, tie-dye shirts and flowers in their hair.

The places to be or not to be were the Fillmore, Woodstock, Haight-Ashbury, Kent State, Chicago, Monterey, Needle Park, Berkeley and In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida.

If none of this rings a bell, or is all kind of a Purple Haze, it’s either because you weren’t there—or more probably—because you were.

Putting aside the matter of why your recollection of these two decades might be a bit hazy, be aware that help has arrived in the form of an informative and entertaining book called “The Hippie Dictionary” (Ten Speed Press).

The soft-cover, 704-page compendium, which took author John Bassett McCleary eight years to put together, bills itself as “a cultural encyclopedia of the 1960s and 1970s.”

While describing the work as a cultural encyclopedia may be accurate, in reality the alphabetized mishmash of information is simply too much fun to be relegated to such stodgy duty.

Here are some offerings from the book that may intrigue and take you back, although hopefully, not in a flash.

Words and expressions that are still in common usage today:

- Bash.
- Funk.

By JIM SHEA
The Hartford Courant



- Check it out.
- Cop (to get or buy something).
- Cop-out (to give into pressure).
- Cop a feel (better not get into that here).
- Don’t quit your day job. (Everyone wanted to be in a band ... but most musical careers were unprofitable and one had to have a day job to pay the rent.)
- Freak out.
- Compleat Idiot’s Guide (nickname for the book “How To Keep Your Volkswagen Alive; a Manual of Step by Step Procedures for the Compleat Idiot”).

Words and expressions that didn’t, or shouldn’t have, made it out of the 1960s and ‘70s:

- Groovy (or worse still, groovin’).
- Bag (as in “not my”).
- Do your own thing.
- Don’t trust anyone over 30.
- Where one’s head is at.
- Right on.
- Golden oldie (See “Don’t trust anyone over 30”).

Words and expressions you may never have heard of:

See HIPPIE on Page 38

DPW020

DPW021

DPW022

Bratt is pleased to go colorblind for ‘Catwoman’

By ELAINE DUTKA
LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—Benjamin Bratt’s bicultural roots run deep, he says, affecting not only his professional choices but how he sees himself.

Hollywood, as he has experienced it, rarely has been colorblind. So he was heartened when, despite the high stakes, Warner Bros. cast him opposite Halle Berry in “Catwoman,” a film based on the venerable comic book character, to be released on July 23. In it, the 40-year-old heartthrob plays a detective who falls in love with a meek graphic designer (Berry) while hunting down her feline alter ego.

“That a big movie like ‘Catwoman’ has two ethnic leads proves that, at a certain point, even people of color become green,” Bratt says. “That’s what it’s all about. That nobody said a thing about it was a relief to someone like myself who’s been up against walls of discrimination.”

The movie is what it is, Bratt says, playing down the female empowerment angle. Although young girls, especially black, might find it uplifting, it’s basically an “over-the-top, visually stunning piece of entertainment.” Does casting Berry as a summer superhero mean that talent and looks supersede race? Depends on the day of the week, Bratt replies. Things are getting better, thanks to pioneers such as TV producer Dick Wolf (“Law & Order”). But, citing his experience with Wolfgang Petersen’s “Troy,” there’s still a way to go.

“About a year and a half ago, I read a wonderful script called ‘Troy and, though the leads were set, even the tertiary roles,



smaller in size, were of interest to me. I succeeded in getting a meeting but was told that I was too ‘brown.’ What do people in Asia Minor look like? If they all look like Brad Pitt . . . fine. After the major roles were established, they said, they were only going to hire British actors.”

How did he add texture to the cartoonish mix of “Catwoman”? In TV shows such as “Law & Order” and movies such as “Traffic,” after all, he’s been ultra-reality-based.

“Working with this kind of material is much harder than doing something dramatic and representational,” Bratt says by phone from New York, where his wife, actress Talisa

Soto, and their 17-month-old daughter, Sophia, spend much of their time when not in his native San Francisco. “With respect to the writers, it’s all on the surface. My cop was just an expositional device, a guy who asks questions—much too soft on the page. I told the producers and writers that no one likes anything that comes too easy, so we made him more mysterious and dangerous—building up the sexual tension. Halle’s character would never be with someone who doesn’t push back, so we gave him a bit of sass.”

Another detective role wasn’t exactly part of Bratt’s game plan. But his desire to work with Berry persuaded him to

come aboard. In the past, economic necessity has made him a “hired gun,” he acknowledges. But he’s trying to make a course correction, taking responsibility for his roles. He and his brother Peter are collaborating on a love story set against San Francisco’s Hispanic community. The goal: to make it sufficiently formulaic to succeed yet infuse it with their politics.

“It’s dangerous for an actor to stand on a soapbox,” he says. “You have to strike a balance—like Tim Robbins, who occupies an enviable niche in this industry. He manages to exercise his freedom of speech and cross over into something trivial and satiric like ‘The Player’ and ‘Bob Roberts.’ While I don’t want to shout the ‘right’ point of view from the rooftops, motion pictures are a powerful tool transmitted worldwide that help to shape perceptions.”

“I’ve been very lucky,” he adds. “Here I’m playing a love interest, at 40, opposite one of the most beautiful women in the world. At 85, I’ll still be playing love interests . . . opposite a 17-year-old—it’s the Hollywood way. And personally, I have a wonderful family that relaxes me, helps me focus, frees me from worrying about what people say. I don’t need to take over the world. It’s about the work—not results—these days. I’m happy with where I am.”

There has been a lot of water under the bridge since he and Julia Roberts split three years ago, we observe—saving the tough one for last.

The actor momentarily skips a beat. “The whole subject of Julia has no relevance in my life anymore,” he replies evenly. “People move on.”

‘80 Days’ exudes global warmth

HOLLYWOOD—“Around the World in 80 Days” sails along on a slipstream of pleasant scenery, amusing incident and the boundless charms of its appealing leading men, Jackie Chan and Steve Coogan—it’s an unexpectedly buoyant spectacular.

Based on the Jules Verne novel, the basis of a two-ton turkey from 1956 with David Niven, this light entertainment suggests that the class of movie known as “the family film”—think Fred MacMurray and a talking dog—has yet to be vanquished by product placements, vulgarity and unnecessary violence. It may never be hip to be square, but as this genial film attests sometimes it’s sweet relief.

The story, originally published by Verne in 1872, concerns an English stuffed shirt of unknown circumstances, Phileas Fogg (Coogan), who bets some fellow club members that he can circumnavigate the globe in 80 days. To win his wager, Phileas employs a horse-less and a horse-drawn carriage, various trains and one hot-air balloon, a slow-moving boat and a fast-moving flying machine—along with a bag brimming with cash, a head abounding in ingenuity and, courtesy of his valet Passepartout (Chan), some fancy fist-and-footwork. And, perhaps because the image of two bachelors traveling together in close quarters no longer registers the way it did once upon a movie time, a third globetrotter has been folded into the mix, a French painter named Monique (Cécile de France).

As in the original novel much adventure ensues though with none of the casual affronts and racism; Passepartout no longer calls Fogg “master” for one and a band of attacking Sioux Indians has, gratefully, gone missing. Instead, in a nod to modern tastes and attention spans, direc-

tor Frank Coraci and writers David Titcher, David Benullo and David Goldstein amp the action with a purloined jade statue and a Chinese warlord with extremely dangerous press-on nails (played by the delightful Hong Kong actress Karen Joy Morris). It’s all terribly silly if eminently watchable, in part because it gives executive co-producer Chan something to do besides spread his mile-wide smile. In the case of a bit featuring California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger—wearing a scary Rosanna Dana fright wig and an even more alarming wolfish grin—it’s also downright memorable.

As far as Chan vehicles go “Around the World in 80 Days” is fairly tame stuff. Serving as the film’s stunt choreographer, Chan nonetheless executes a couple of nifty fight sequences including one in which he uses a wooden bench to battle a blade-twirling opponent—not since Fred Astaire has a screen performer put quotidian objects to such consistently glorious use. For most American viewers it’s likely that the bigger eye-opener will be Coogan, an impudently gifted British comic performer best known here for the film “24 Hour Party People.” With a mad stare and jumping eyebrows, Coogan plays Fogg as an innocent and genius, as a man who after a lifetime of living inside his head is forced to confront the wonderful wide world in order to—of course, of course—discover his truest self.

Although the 1956 movie was shot on locations from Mexico to Thailand it might as well have been produced entirely on a studio back lot given its one-dimensional design and attitude toward the Earth’s peoples as fear-some exotics and swarthy babes—Shirley MacLaine plays an East Indian princess, for crying out loud.

HIPPIE

From Page 37

Breatharians (people who supposedly lived on air alone).

Brown Shoes (nickname for FBI agents).

Crawdaddy (first rock and roll magazine, 1964).

Hippie underwear (hint: looked like the emperor’s new clothes).

Honalee (where “Puff the Magic Dragon” lived, but meant high on heroin).

Loofah (the skeleton of a dried gourd used to scrub the skin).

Mazola party (involved naked people slathered in oil).

Pigasus (pig that ran for president in 1972).

Words and expressions you may wish you never heard of:

No way, Jose.

Wazoo (along with relatives kazoo and yazoo).

Party hearty.

Let it all hang out.

Don’t worry, be happy (origi-

nally found on posters produced by followers of Avatar Meher Baba in 1960s. Later was title of extremely annoying song).

Memorable people:

The Mod Squad (Link, Julie, Pete).

Easy Rider (Captain America).

Shaft (a bad mother ... shut your mouth).

Wavy Gravy (MC at Woodstock).

Memorable things:

Lava lamp.

Alligator clip (used to restrain alligators – yeah, right).

Gorp (“good old raisins and peanuts,” a hippie staple).

Op art (far-out, man).

Stratocaster (Hendrix).

Ripple (if you got the right month).

Hippie chicks.

In retrospect, the phrase that most accurately defines the 1960s and ‘70s:

Astral plane.

crm

'Jackson OK'd \$15.3M settlement'

By LINDA DEUTSCH
AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson agreed to pay \$15.3 million to the child he was accused of molesting in 1993, according to a confidential settlement of a lawsuit.

Jackson did not admit misconduct but said at that time that he was settling the case because of its potential to harm his career, according to documents

obtained Tuesday by Court TV. The station shared copies with The Associated Press.

The 1994 settlement has been widely reported but this was the first time documents were available showing the specific figure.

The documents specified that \$15.3 million was to be held in trust by the boy's attorney. The boy, his family and Jackson

agreed to keep the settlement confidential, according to the document.



Jackson

The attorney representing the boy, Larry Feldman, did not return calls seeking comment.

Jackson's spokeswoman, Raymone K. Bain, said she could not say the documents were authentic but added:

"Whoever leaked this document did it with a willful intent to influence potential jurors" in Jackson's current criminal case. "It's outrageous, and I see it as an act of desperation," she said.

In the current case, Jackson, 45, has pleaded not guilty to committing a lewd act upon a child, administering an intoxicating agent, alcohol, and conspiracy to commit child abduction, false imprisonment and extortion.

Bobby Brown gets suspended Mass. sentence

CANTON, Mass. (AP)—R&B singer Bobby Brown was given a suspended sentence after missing three child support payments in a Massachusetts paternity case.

Brown was sentenced to 90 days in jail Tuesday for contempt of court by Norfolk County Family Court Judge Paula Carey, but the sentence was immediately suspended because the payments had been made Monday, said Patrick McDermott, the court's Register of Probate.

Brown, 35, was jailed in March for one day after failing to pay \$63,500 he owed Kim Ward of Stoughton, the mother of two of his children, now 12 and 14. He was released after paying the debt.

Tuesday's hearing was held

to determine whether he had complied with a court order to make monthly payments of roughly \$5,000.

The sentence can be imposed if Brown fails to make his scheduled payments.

"I'm still trying, you know," Brown said after the hearing. "Working, you know, and that's the most I can do. I can work harder, you know, to try to keep up with the payments."

Last month, Brown was ordered to stand trial in Atlanta on charges that he allegedly hit Houston in the face at their home near Alpharetta in December. He's charged with misdemeanor battery.

Brown and Houston, 40, have been married since 1992 and have a 10-year-old daughter, Bobbi Kristina.



Entertainer Bobby Brown, left, with his lawyer Phaedra Parks, appears in the Norfolk County Probate and Family Court in Canton, Mass., Tuesday, June 15, 2004.

'Idol' host reportedly slams Simon Cowell



AP

Ryan Seacrest hosts the Radio Music Awards on Oct. 27, 2003, at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas.

SINGAPORE (AP)—Ryan Seacrest, the host of singing competition "American Idol," said judge Simon Cowell is arrogant and pompous and says things that are "too harsh," a report said Wednesday.

But Seacrest added that Cowell was a good friend and the "most honest" of the show's three judges, in an interview with the Straits Times newspaper in Singapore, where a local version of the program is planned.

"I think that he's pompous. I think that he's arrogant. So my feelings about him, and the way that I address him on air, are very real," the 29-year-old Seacrest said in the interview.

Cowell is famous for his searing putdowns of contestants who do not, in his opinion, make the grade with their performances.

"I think he says things that are at times a bit too harsh and could probably convey them in a different light so that they don't crush a young person's dream," Seacrest said.

Last month, a record 65 million U.S. phone votes were cast in the finale of the latest "American Idol" season. Fantasia Barrino, a 19-year-old single mother, emerged as the tearful winner.

Seacrest said the show "will certainly be on air for the next few years."

"There's no telling what will happen after that but as long as people are watching it, then we should make the show," he said.

Courtney Love drops tour amid legal woes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rocker Courtney Love will not tour in June or July so she can focus on mounting legal troubles—including a felony drug case and an alleged assault with a liquor bottle, her publicist said.

"Love has chosen to take this time to privately address the frivolous, malicious complaints and legal matters that have plagued her this spring," publicist Heidi Schaeffer said in the statement.

Love, 39, and her new band The Chelsea were scheduled to tour in June and July to support Love's new album "America's Sweetheart." Instead, Love will

join the band Aug. 1 in Japan, where they will headline the Fuji Festival, according to the statement.

Love surrendered to police Friday after an arrest warrant was issued. She was booked on a felony charge of assault with a deadly weapon and was released on \$55,000 bail.

Prosecutors have said the felony charge stems from an April 25 incident at the Los Angeles home of former manager and ex-boyfriend Jim Barber, during which Love

allegedly attacked a 32-year-old woman with a liquor bottle.

Love also has been charged in three other cases, including two stemming from encounters with police on the same night last October.

Authorities said cocaine and other opiates were found in Love's system after she was arrested in October for allegedly trying to break into Barber's home. Love pleaded guilty last month to a misdemeanor drug charge and agreed to enter drug rehabilitation.



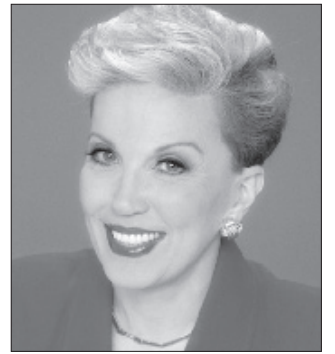
Love

Incest victim keeps quiet because of shame and fear

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I am a 14-year-old girl. My brother molested me. It happened only once, but since then he has twice offered me money to help him with his "fixation." He had a girlfriend for a few years and they had sex all the time. After they broke up, his next relationship lasted for only a few months before she broke it off. That's when he turned to me.

I haven't told anyone because I'm ashamed of myself. I don't want people to find out—especially my friends. I'm afraid they'll think I'm gross or something. What should I do?



Dear Abby

'TOY' IN INDIANA

DEAR 'TOY': What happened wasn't your fault. You have done nothing to be ashamed of. The person who should be ashamed is your brother. His "fixation" is sick, and he should not be trying to make you a part of it.

It is important that you get help. Your friends do not have to know. Tell your mother what happened. If she minimizes what your brother did, then pick up the phone and call your local rape hotline, or the Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network (R.A.I.N.N.)—800-656-HOPE (4673). The people there will understand the seriousness of what happened and will help you during this difficult time. Please don't wait. Trust me, you are not as alone as you think you are.

DEAR ABBY: What is the protocol for avoiding a co-worker's third wedding? Everyone in our office was invited to her second one, a large, catered affair. We all knew the marriage wouldn't last because she was marrying a jobless, irresponsible parasite.

She is again marrying for the wrong reasons. She admits she doesn't love her fiancé, but he provides security and takes care of her two sons from her first marriage, both of whom have problems she can't handle.

I don't plan to attend, so am I obligated to send a gift? She's having another large wedding, she says, because they need money for the house they just bought.

DISGUSTED IN DETROIT

DEAR DISGUSTED: You are under no obligation to give your co-worker a gift if you do not attend her fundraiser. Since you have to work with the woman, consider sending a lovely greeting card or token gift along with your good wishes.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 13-year-old girl. I baby-sit for a family with three children. I watch them twice a week from after school until the mother arrives home from work. Lately, the kids have been involved in sports and after-school activities, so some weeks I am not needed.

Yesterday when I arrived, there sat the mother. She had taken the day off from work and didn't notify me. I'm afraid if I bring up the fact that I never know whether or not I should go to watch the kids, I'll lose my job. (Of course, when I don't baby-sit, I don't get paid.) I would appreciate any advice you have.

GETTING FRUSTRATED

DEAR GETTING FRUSTRATED: It's time to expand your client roster. It appears you are being taken for granted and taken advantage of. For the mother to expect you to reserve a bloc of time and then not pay for it is inconsiderate and unfair. I recommend you institute a 24-hour cancellation policy. If you allot time to baby-sit someone's children, you should be paid for that time unless properly notified. Experienced, responsible baby sitters aren't easy to find.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Dylan to receive honorary degree

St. ANDREWS, Scotland (AP)—Call him Dr. Tambourine Man. Scotland's oldest university announced Wednesday it was awarding an honorary doctorate to the laureate of folk-rock, Bob Dylan.

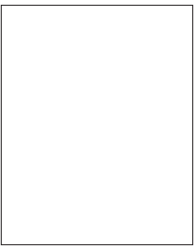
The University of St. Andrews said Dylan would be made an honorary doctor of music at its June 23 summer graduation ceremony.

"Bob Dylan is an iconic figure for the 20th century, particularly for those of us whose formative years were in the 1960s and '70s," said the university's vice chancellor, Brian Lang. "His songs, and in particular his lyrics, are still part of our consciousness."

St. Andrews, northeast of Edinburgh, was founded in 1413 and is Britain's third-oldest university. Its current students include Prince William, second in line to the throne.

The university said Dylan, 63, had accepted only one previous honorary degree, from Princeton University in 1970.

Pastimes



27

Saipan Tribune

Sports

25

